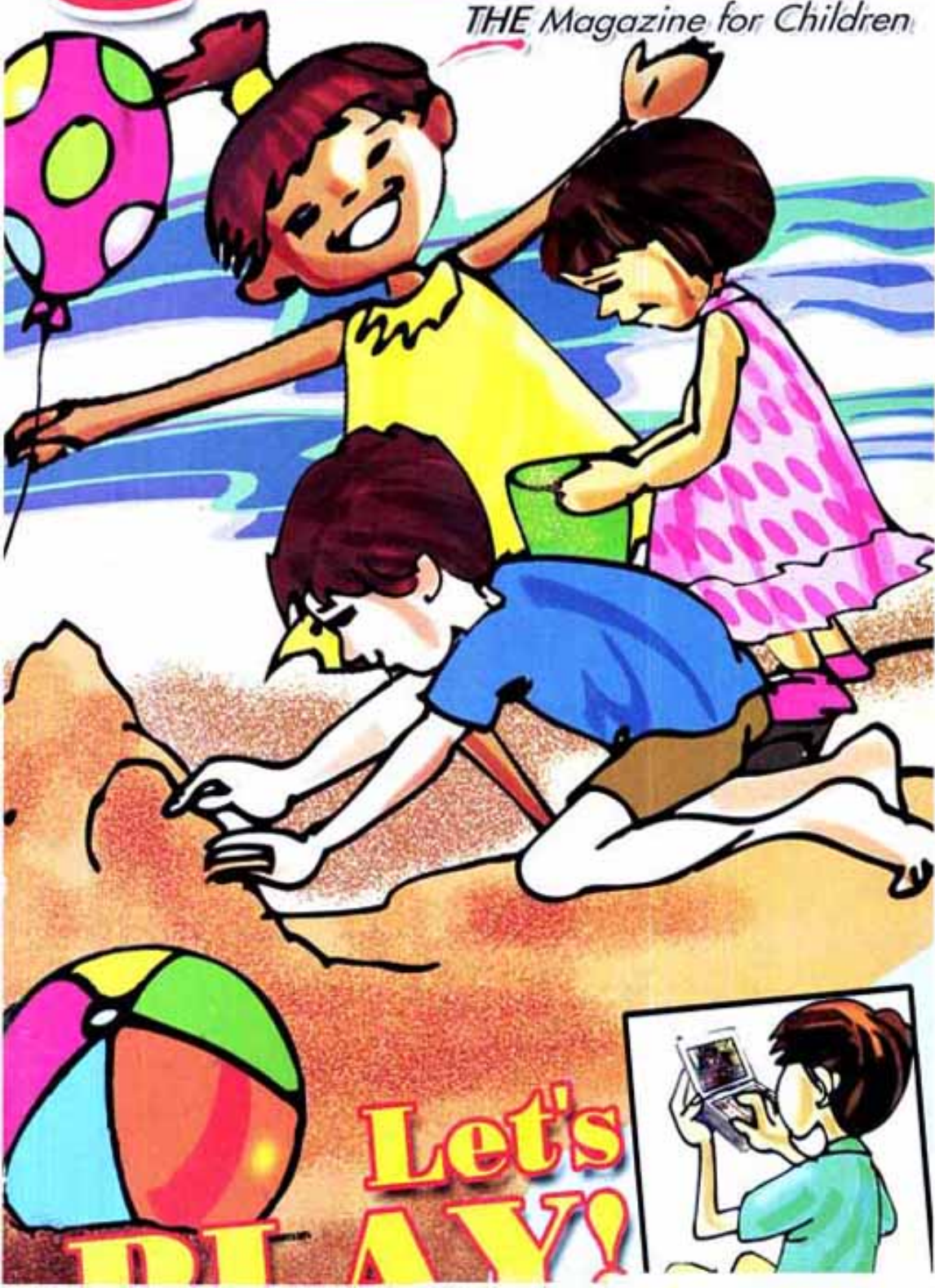


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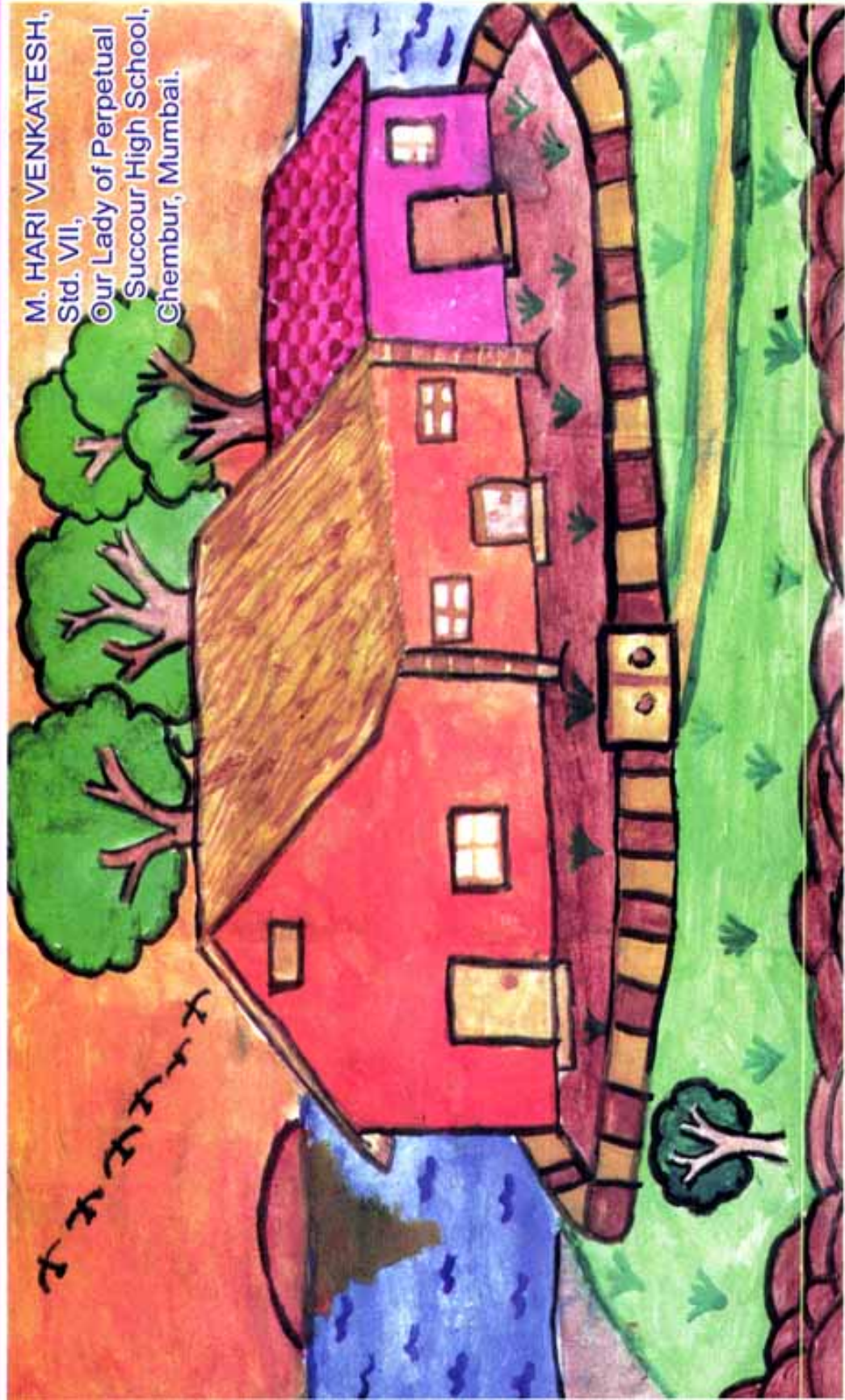
GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



Let's
PLAY!

M. HARI VENKATESH,
Std. VII,
Our Lady of Perpetual
Succour High School,
Chembur, Mumbai.



C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S



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THE Magazine for Children

Dear Reader,

You have studied hard; and you are also confident that you have handled the exams splendidly. You look forward to the first rank. But when the progress report is distributed you are number two or perhaps even three! Disappointment is written large over your face.

What is your reaction? Anger? Jealousy? Frustration? Perhaps you even cry over your misfortune!



*Rafa Wins; But
Roger Wins Too!*



Roger Federer has a message for you. He's been trying very hard to win the French open title. But Nadal beat him for the third year in succession. And what is Federer's reaction? Let me quote :

"Rafa (Rafael Nadal) was supreme! He was lethal in defence. Hardly made any mistake in attack. He showed what a great champion he is!"

Isn't that a wonderful reaction? One should learn to appreciate his or her opponent. Next time some one "steals" the first rank from you, extend your hand to the winner and congratulate him or her.

Isn't that a wonderful reaction? One should learn to appreciate his or her opponent. Next time some one "steals" the first rank from you, extend your hand to the winner and congratulate him or her.

- Editor

P.S. Roger Federer's message is not just for you. It's for all of us to be applied in our own life and vocation.

**What does
'Play' Mean?**

For each one of us, the word 'play' could connote different things. For example, Vinoth tells us when we ask him what he likes playing, "My Nintendo is what I like playing best." For Rose, it is... "Barbie dolls with all the accessories." For Siddharth, "It is a game of cricket on the streets with my gang of friends." For Ritu, "... playing means a computer game."

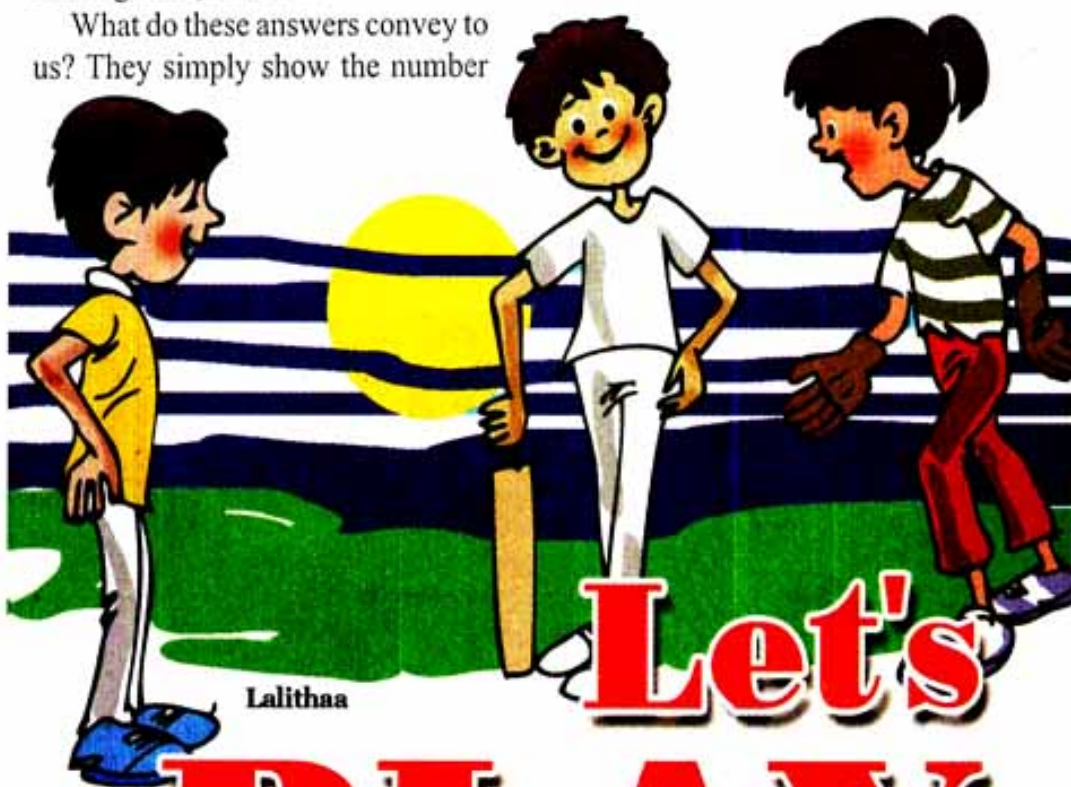
We asked Anand, what the word 'playing' meant and this is what he had to say – "Outdoor, computer, board games, music..."

What do these answers convey to us? They simply show the number

of options you have that you can choose to entertain yourself with. In fact Anand reiterates, "There is not enough time in one day for me to play all that I want to. I wish the day was longer – then I would play a while with my friends, play on the comp, play a bit of music..."

**Play as Entertainment
and Education**

Did you now that as you play, you are entertained, but you also learn plenty of things? A little child playing with blocks, actually learns not only to stack them, but also to



Let's PLAY

co-ordinate and create something with the blocks. If the blocks are coloured, he may learn the name of each colour too.

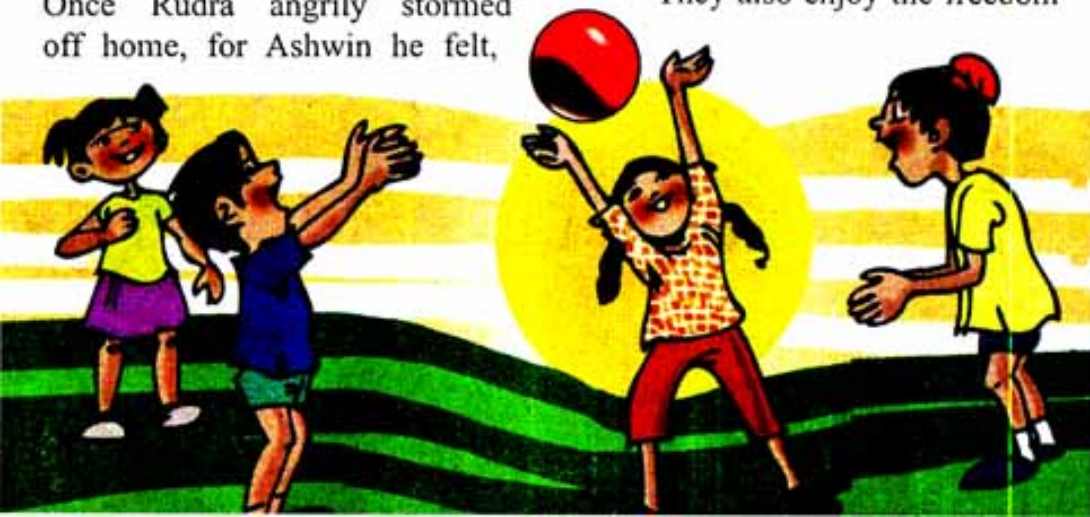
A group of children playing cricket learn to play fair, learn to settle their differences amicably. Playing with others, in little groups is a good and healthy activity that helps you make friends, adjust to different kinds of people and helps you handle difficult situations too. Let me explain.

Rudra is nine-years-old. He and his group of neighbourhood friends have grown up together and play cricket on and off on the road in front of their homes. During summer, the little group plays every day, morning and afternoon. In the course of the years, I have seen the little group divide themselves fairly into teams, make acceptable rules for the game (theirs is certainly the forerunner for the 20:20 format) and make difficult decisions when there is a difference of opinion. Once Rudra angrily stormed off home, for Ashwin he felt,

"cheated every time they played." Rudra said, "Ashwin also wants to be the one to bat each time we begin the game. He must learn to play fair." So Rudra refused to be part of the game for a couple of days. His friends would go to his house and call out his name every day – he would give some excuse or other to avoid them. On the third day, he decided that it was foolish of him to not be the one to play because Ashwin would want to bat or would refuse to be declared out. He picked up his bat and went out to play with the others – and in the process learnt to stand up for himself. Rudra told me, "I told the others what I thought of Ashwin's cheating. The others agreed and we spoke to Ashwin – he agreed to play fair and listen to us."

Where to Play?

Ashwin, Rudra and their gang are lucky. They have a place to play. They also enjoy the freedom



of playing outside the house, and don't feel stuck inside the home. For Rukmani, in her teens, playing outside has never been an option. For there have never been children in the apartment block where she lives. "I generally read, do homework, play a computer game," she tells us, "I have played cricket or made mud pies when I was younger, only when I visited friends who have independent houses."

Besides, the apartment block where Rukmani lives does not have space around to play games, what with cars and bikes parked around.

Sunita, a mother says, "My son Varun is always glued to a computer game. It is hard to get him off once he begins playing. So I tried putting him in some classes like tennis and karate." But Varun was not too happy. Slowly, he began to dodge attending the classes and soon, stopped going altogether. Now all he does is play Playstation or computer games, then do homework, before dinner and bed.

Shekar, a 12-year-old discovered that it was just too hot to continue to attend his tennis coaching during summer. He whined so much that his mom finally let him have his way – but at home, there is no place to play. So what did Shekar do? He spent his summer watching television and playing computer games!

What is Happening?

It is a combination of changing times and a changing environment as well.

All of us have so many electronic options when it comes to playing and entertainment. Similarly, as space becomes premium and more and more multi-storey buildings come up with little or no provision for play area for children – where do you go to play? Really, parents then feel more comfortable keeping you at home, safe – rather than have you go far to find a playground or an open space.

But it is important that you do find a space for outdoor play; as well as group play. Here's why:

1. Outdoor games keep you fit and healthy. A little exposure to sun will not hurt as long as it is not during the peak of the midday heat.

2. Playing with groups helps you interact with other children, and helps you make plenty of friends from different backgrounds.

3. Group play teaches you to take care of yourself

4. Playing with others also teaches you to handle different situations – there will be fights, making-up after the fights, misunderstandings, comic situations, difficulties, etc which you will learn to handle as a group. For example Rudra and his



group recount an incident when they were playing in front of a friend's home. "An old uncle came out of his apartment next door and very rudely told us to run away from there. He caught hold of a police constable at the neighbourhood police booth and complained about us playing in the neighbourhood," says Rudra. He and his friends told the old uncle that they were not playing in front of his house. They also told the policeman that they were not creating any disturbance to anyone. The constable, who had been watching the game allowed them to play. As a group, Rudra and his friends had learnt to handle a potentially difficult situation.

Make a Group; Find a place!

1. I know this is easier said than done. But with a little thought, you can solve your problem of being just stuck indoors with a computer and

a television. Needless to say, you must resolve that you will make a conscious effort to minimise the effect of electronics in your life. Keep aside a few hours in a week for computers and television – watch only the programme/s you like and not anything and everything.

2. Form a group. You will know if there are children your age in the area you live. Either they are your neighbours or children who study in your school or people you know. Make a play group and have fixed times for meeting and playing. You can of course, choose what you want to play and remember – a minimum number of people in the group is okay. Not all will be able to attend every time, so be prepared for some absentees. Take turns to be hosts.

3. Once you form the group, you can have one outdoor activity once a month or so, when one of your parents or a few of them, can take you out to a park/playground or even a game park – just so the group gets to go out of the home.

4. This I do not even have to tell you – enrol yourself in at least one coaching class that takes you out of the home. This is not to make you a champion in that sport – but to give you relief and help you learn something new.

Have fun!



ACTIVITY

*All answers
begin with the
letter 'E'!*

1. National emblem of Spain.
2. Currency of Europe.
3. A famous book by Jane Austen.
4. Inventor of the gramophone.
5. A female sheep is called this!
6. Cricket ground in Kolkata.
7. This country has Cairo as its capital.
8. Dr. Amartya Sen won the

nobel prize in 1999 for this.

9. An instrument for viewing the gastro-intestinal tract.

10. One of the organs of UNO

- P. Padma Priya,
Std. XI, P.S. Chidambara
Nadar Girls H.S.S.,
Virudunagar

Social Council

9. Endoscope 10. Economics and
Gardens 7. Egypt 8. Economics
4. Edison 5. Ewe 6. Eden
1. Eagle, 2. Euro 3. Emma

ANSWERS :

E Quiz!



JOKES



Mother : Rosy,
eat your spinach.
it's good for
growing children.
Rosy : But, I
don't want to grow
children!



Best When Closed!

Worker : Sir, I've been with
you for 32 years, and I've never
before asked for a raise.

Employer : That's why you've
been with me for 32 years.



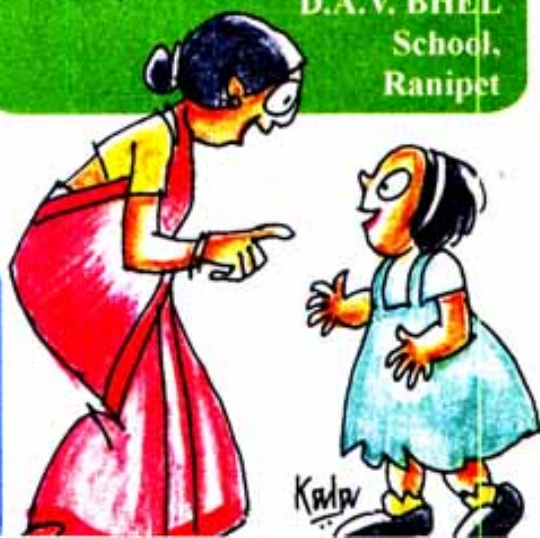
Patient : I'm scared. This is
going to be my first operation.

Doctor : I know just how you
feel. This is my first operation
too!

Woman : Tell me Sonali, how
do you like the school?

Sonali : I like it closed ma'm!

- C.S.M. Vevetha, Std.IX,
D.A.V. BHEL
School,
Ranipet



What Heals Cracked Heels?

● **D.Deepika, Chennai - 80**

? I have a lot of dandruff on my scalp. Please suggest some medicines to get rid of it.

! There are two types of dandruff - namely, oily dandruff and dry dandruff. Oily



dandruff occurs mostly among adults who have excessively oily skin and scalp. Dry dandruff appears as loose white flakes and scalp itches. There are

a number of reasons for dandruff, like faulty diet, hard shampoo, poor blood circulation in the scalp, fungal infection, tension and stress.

Treatment steps :

* Use an effective anti-dandruff shampoo in consultation with your family doctor.

* Wash your hair frequently and dry it well. It keeps the fungus in check.

* Massaging and brushing the hair daily are effective in treating

Dr. G.GANESAN

dandruff. They help improve blood circulation of the scalp.

* Avoid nuts, chocolates and fried food. You must eat a diet rich in greens and vegetables.

● **Bhavani Shankar Mohanta, Bilaspur**

? I am eleven years old. I suffer from cracks on my heels. Please suggest the treatment, doctor!

! Cracked heels are often referred to as 'fissures' and are usually caused by dry skin. For most people this is a nuisance and a cosmetic problem but when the fissures are deep, the skin bleeds easily and it can be very painful. Inactive sweat glands, prolonged standing, obesity, using excessive hot water, open backed shoes, flat feet and high arched feet are some of the other contributing factors for this skin condition.

To cure this problem, you can apply a moisturizing cream



twice daily to the affected heels. Use pumice stone to reduce the thickness of the hard skin. Avoid open backed shoes or thin soled shoes. Buy shoes with a good shock absorbing sole. Avoid hot water for bathing or cleaning your feet.



● Srinivasa Varadhan,

Chennai - 9

? I have gingivitis. What can I do to get it cured?

! Gingivitis is inflammation of the gums that results from infection. Symptoms of gingivitis include bluish gums that are swollen and painful. Poor dental hygiene and deficiency of vitamins in our body are primary causes. Brush your teeth twice daily. Rinse your mouth daily with a disinfectant oral solution. Floss regularly to clean the spaces between the teeth. Avoid sugar and sticky sweets like chocolates. Add fresh fruits and vegetables in your diet.

● R.Niranjan Kumar,

Chennai - 80

? I have acne on my face. What can I do to get rid of them?

! Take the following self-care steps to lessen acne. Over a period of time they may disappear.

- * Wash your face three times a day.

- * Clean your skin gently with soap.

- * Shampoo your hair daily, especially if it's oily.

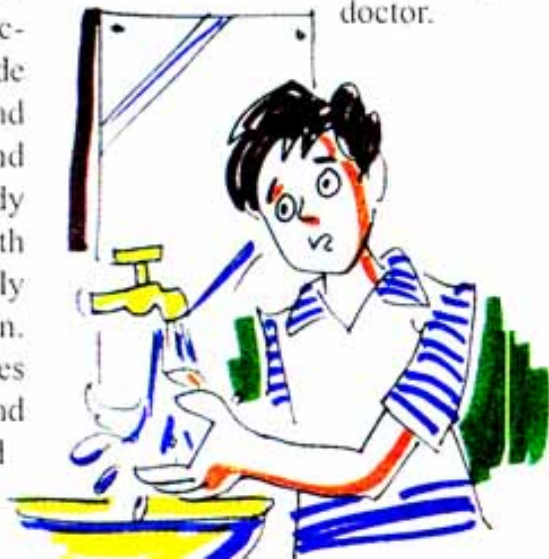
- * Try not to squeeze, scratch, pick, or rub the pimples. Although it might be tempting to do this, it can lead to scarring and skin infections.

- * Avoid touching your face with your hands or fingers.

- * Avoid greasy cosmetics or creams.

- * If the pimples are still a problem, consult a dermatologist.

- * Antibiotic cream or tablets could be used if prescribed by your doctor.



* solar panels

Sunny Surprises

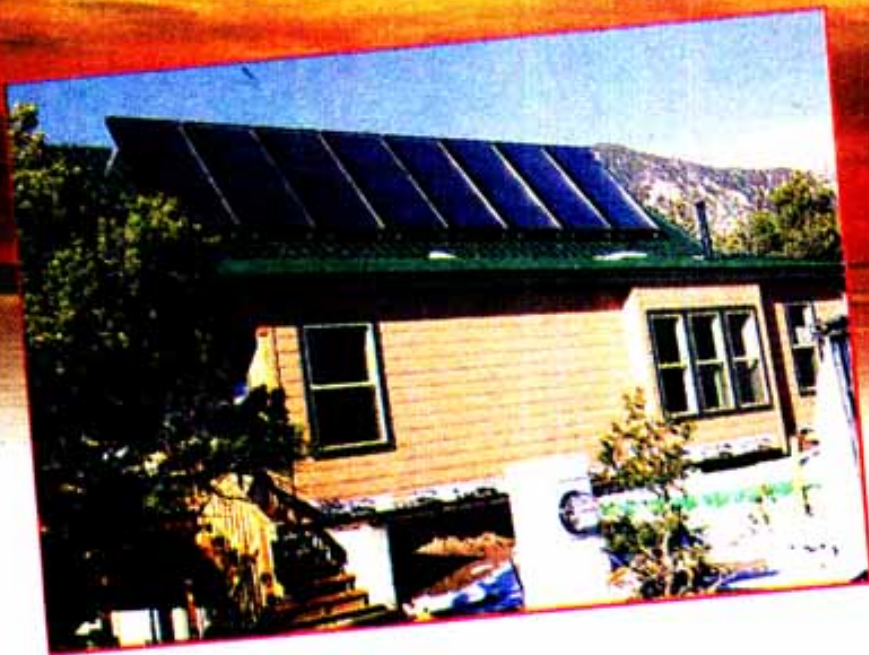
For 30 years now, scientists have studied the relationship between the sun and earth. They have several surprise findings. Sun exists in a plasma state, a gaseous state, with no rocky boundary like other planets. The sun is a mass of hot air. The rotation of the sun is somewhat peculiar; it rotates faster at its equator (25 days) than its poles (35 days).

Even though the sun doesn't have a boundary, it has a core which is both hot and dense. The core has about 150 times the density of all water on earth and has an unimaginable temperature of 13,600,000 kelvin (a unit of temperature measurement). The surface of the sun is relatively 'cool' at 5,800 kelvin.

In this 'cooler' temperature, we can see several dark regions on the surface of the sun. These regions are called as 'sun spots', and have a higher concentration of magnetic fields than other regions. Some

* alternate energy sources

Rani Iyer



* roof top panels

large sunspots can be tens of thousands of kilometers wide.

Scientists also know that the sun goes through an 11 year cycle of activity. During this time, it goes from being stormy, with fierce solar storms and sending out solar flares, to becoming quiet for a few years in between, and then become stormy again. Such intense solar activity often occurs near sunspots. So, the solar energy is much higher during the period of maximum solar activity, when sunspot cycle and solar activity is high. When the solar activity is minimum and the sun is quiet and there are usually no sunspots.

The solar cycle affects the earth's global temperature. It increases by about 0.1 degree celsius during maximum solar activity. About 30 percent of the solar energy that

strikes the earth is scattered by earth's atmosphere and reflected back into space. Clouds, atmospheric pollution, snow, ice, sand, ocean surface and even rooftops play a role in deflecting the incoming rays. The remaining 70 percent of solar energy is absorbed by land, ocean, and atmosphere. While the light is scattered out, the heat is trapped in the earth. Scientists calculate that about 40 percent of outgoing heat is blocked by green house gases. This imbalance can cause earth to heat up over the next century. As earth becomes warmer, polar ice caps melt, sea levels can rise and increase violent hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters.

Our life on planet earth is tuned to the sun. For ages, sun has directed everything we have done. It is central to our life on earth. Nothing can change that. Sleep on that thought!

Shadow Thief!

Story : P.S. James

Pictures : Ramki

Foxy and Mousey were great friends. One morning, as Foxy strolled out...



Ah... How long and strong is my shadow! Indeed, I am a mighty creature!

Mousey came by...



Hi Foxy!
What is it that you're dreaming about?

Just look at my shadow! So huge, so impressive...! Isn't it?

Indeed, my friend. Even King Lion's shadow would pale before it.

Do you mean to say I am mightier than King Lion?

Of course you are... No doubts at all!



Come on!
You flatter me no end. Let's go home and eat some curry.

They both went indoors to a hearty meal.

Foxy! Foxy!
Is Foxy at home...?

Who is it now? What do you want?

It's me Wolfonso from next door. Will you keep an eye on my house while I step out.

As soon as Wolfonso left...

The dirty pest!
He fought tooth and nail with me and now he wants my help!

Sure,
Take your time buddy.

Oh, just forget it. He's after all a mangy wolf!

After a long chat, Foxy and Mousey came out of the house.

Hey, look Mousey!
My shadow has now shrunk!

Indeed, it has... But how did it...?



Must be
Wolfonso's mean
trick. He has
stolen half my
shadow!

Come, let's
go up to
King Lion and
complain.



At King Lion's den...



Yes, your
honour. My friend
speaks the truth. The
villain Wolfonso stole
half his shadow.



Both of you come
back tomorrow
morning. I will have
Wolfonso over
too.



Thank you
your
Highness.

The two friends took leave of
King Lion.



The next day...



He's lying your
Majesty. I did not
steal his shadow. How
could I...?



If it wasn't
you, who was
it then?

Minister Sherappa came forward...

You will find the truth if you just step out...

Is that so?
Let's go out at once then.

As they all stepped out, Foxy had a big shock!

Hey! My shadow is back to its old length once again. This certainly is Wolfonso's conspiracy.

Yes! yes!
Punish him immediately.

Lion King was furious with them.

Who do you think you are? You nitwits! Don't you dare waste my time again with your imaginary complaints.

Let's run for our lives. I'll never again measure my shadow.

The two had learnt a lesson, but not about shadows!

Mother : I would like to buy some vitamins for my son.

Chemist : Sure, A, B, C, D, E, or K?

Mother : Anything would do. My son doesn't know the alphabets yet!



Hearty 'Ha Ha's'!



Teacher : Neha, do you write with your left or right hand?

Neha : I usually write with a pen!

Neetu : Hey, when is your birthday?

Neha : April 6

Neetu : Which year?

Neha : Every year

- S.Vismitha, Std.VIII,

Stella Maris School,

Bengalooru



Teacher : Do electric trains give out smoke, Ramu?

Ramu : No miss.

Teacher : Good, why?

Ramu : Err... Because of no smoking sign miss.





Name : R.Archana

Age : 13

Address : 27, Mothilal Main Road, Karimedu Market, Madurai - 625 010

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, playing shuttle, fighting, chatting, listening to music

Name : R.Harithra

Age : 14

Address : 3/4, Palimandapam Road

games, writing stories and poems for Gokulam.

Name : A.G. Pallavi

Age : 12

Address : Saraladevi College S.N.PET, Bellary - 583 103

Hobbies : Reading Gokulam, writing, playing, reading stories, studying, collecting tickets.

Name : S.Vinod

Age : 12

RVM Apartments back side, Srirangam, Trichy - 6

Hobbies : Drawing, reading magazines, watching T.V, playing, listening to songs.

Name : S.Shreyaa Vanju

Age : 12

Address : 178, Church Street, Karaikal, Pondicherry

Hobbies : Playing chess, surfing the net, listening to music, reading books.

Name : T.Krishnakumari

Age : 13

Address : A-28, I.R.E. Colony, Matikhalo, Ganjam, Orissa - 761045

Hobbies : Reading novels and Harry Potter books, listening to latest songs, playing the guitar, playing outdoor

Address : C/o Dr.V.V.S. Sharma, 40, Leela Nivas (upstairs), Amarjothi Layout, Chola Nagar, R.T. Nagar Post, Bengalooru - 560 032

Hobbies : Reading daily news paper and magazines, acting in school dramas,

Write Right





drawing, painting, watching T.V. programmes, gardening and cooking.

Name : K.Manikandan

Age : 12

Away!

Address : 250/K, Railway Colony, Rose 4th Street, Madurai - 16

Hobbies : Playing chess, cricket, hockey, cycling and reading books.

Name : R.Shruthi

Age : 14

Address : M1-27, Avalapalli Hudco, Near Basthi, Hosur - 635 109

Hobbies : Drawing, glass painting, chatting with friends, reading books and monthly magazines, listening to music and gardening.

Name : R.Dharini

Age : 12

Address : M1-27, Avallapali Hudco, Basthi, Hosur - 635 109

Hobbies : Playing, drawing, painting, riding cycle, reading, listening to music and preparing juices.

Name : Dipali Parab

Age : 13

Address : P.W.D Qtrs. B-2/2, Headland Sada Vasco, Goa - 403 804

Hobbies : Reading, singing, making new friends, playing video games.

Name : Rinky Diana

Age : 15

Address : H.No.20-35, Christian Colony, Nagarkurnool, Mahaboobnagar (Dist.) - 509 209, Andhra Pradesh

Hobbies : Collecting coins, proverbs, stamps and stones, dancing, singing, listening to music, playing games, making friends, reading books, photography, painting and bird watching.

Name : N.Priyanka

Age : 13

Address : No.C-130, T.N.H.B Colony, Tambaram, Sanatorium, Chennai - 47

Hobbies : Philately, reading all sorts of books, playing, browsing the net and cycling.





Did You Know...?

- Trumpet blowing contests were included in the ancient Olympic Games!

- During a football match in Athens, the visiting Chinese team stood to attention when music blared from the loudspeakers. They assumed the music must be the Greek national anthem. The Greek players and the spectators also stood to attention, believing the music to

be the Chinese national anthem. Then a voice was heard over the loudspeakers praising a new brand of toothpaste! The music was just a part of an advertisement!

(Source : Amazing facts)

- Sheethal R. Holla,

Std.VII,

Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya,

Bengalooru.



**Unbelievably
Funny!**

Cherrapunjee - the place with the highest rainfall on planet Earth is located 4500 feet above sea level, and is locally known as Sohra. Widely famous for its exquisite natural beauty, it is a dream destination for many. And until 13th April 2008, it was for me too - a 'dream' destination.

The journey to Sohra from Shillong, along Mawdok Valley

was wonderful - with sylvan hills all around. At our first step, we were mesmerised by the Nohkalikai Falls, with water white as mist, doing a free-fall of more than a 100 feet! We could also see the plains of Bangladesh from here. The Eco Park was not very far away and had quite a few water harvesting systems to boast of. There was also an underground

DREAM Destination!



TRAVEL

waterfall, aptly, christened as 'The Missing Falls.' It is at this Eco Park that the Nohsngithiang falls originates. We were thrilled to sit

We saw many more such passages and caverns as we continued to clamber over the large and slippery rocks. At last, after almost half an hour of scrambling, daylight was in sight and we came out feeling jubilant.

The trip to Cherrapunjee was an experience of a lifetime,

* Inside the
Mawsmmai
Caves



* Falls at the Eco Park

right at the point where the water cascades down the sheer cliff.

The best part of the trip was a visit to the Mawsmmai Caves. I had not seen a natural cave before and was not sure what to expect. At first glance, the cave looked short, but on further exploration, we came to know that what we had considered to be the exit was actually a passage leading to another cavern! Here, we could clearly make out the stalagmites and stalagmites, and I was thrilled to bits.



and I am going to cherish the memories for ever.

- Anangsha Alammyan,
AISSE Candidate,
- JNV, Golaghat,
Assam

Budding Chef

Ingredients :

½ cup fresh curd

½ cup frozen mixed fruits

(banana, apple, grapes, cherry, pineapple)

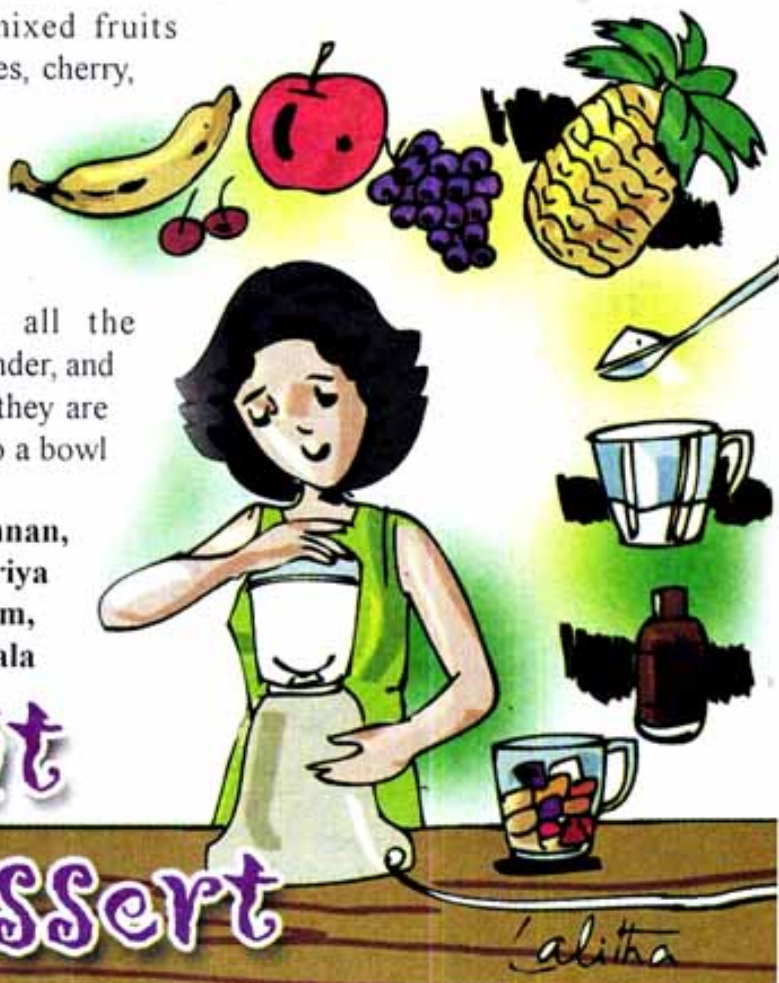
1 tbsp castor sugar

2 - 3 drops of Vanilla essence

Method : Put all the ingredients into a blender, and blend together until they are smooth. Transfer it to a bowl and serve it chilled.

- Anjali Krishnan,
Std.X, Kendriya
Vidyalaya, Pattom,
Kerala

Fruit Dessert



CHOCOLATE CHAPATTI PUDDING

Ingredients :

Chapatti

Warm Milk

Grated Chocolate

Corn Flakes

Sugar

Method :

1. Crush left over chapatti into tiny pieces, pour some warm milk over it and leave it soaked for

about 15 minutes.

2. Now add some grated chocolate, corn flakes, powdered sugar and mix it.

3. Flatten this in a plate.

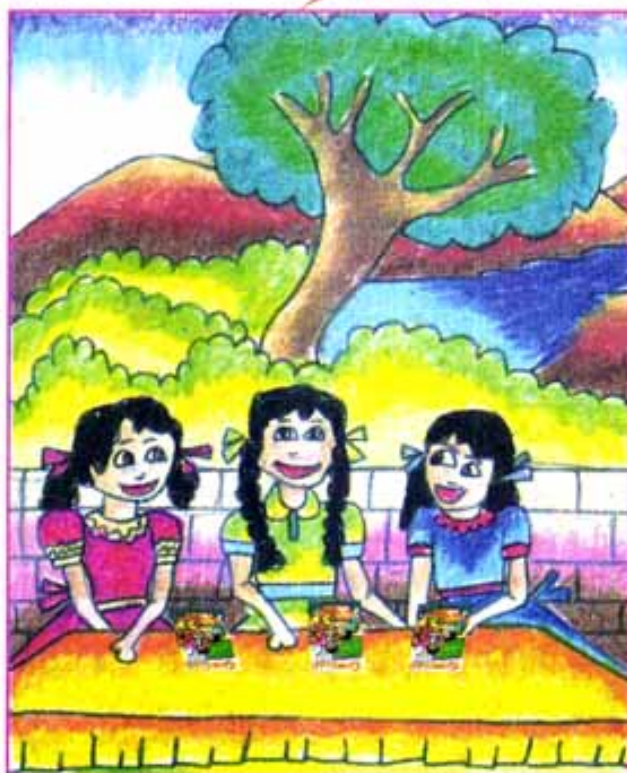
4. Now freeze it for 30 minutes and it is ready to be relished.

- S.Varsha, Std.VIII,
R.N.Podar School,
Mumbai

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

For
Children
From
Children
To
Children!



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World
Over!

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ASN.S.S.S.
New Delhi.

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T-Shirt Spruce Up!

Materials Needed :

T-Shirts
Sand Paper
Crayons
Towel
Iron Box

with different coloured crayons.

How it works : The wax particles of the crayons stick in the small pores of the sand paper and melt on to the cloth when you iron it.

- Somya Vasudevan, Std.IX,
M.G.C. Vidyalaya, Trichy

Procedure : Take the sand paper and draw whatever design you want to have on your T-shirt, with a crayon. Be careful if you are writing letters as they should be written right to left. Now place the sand paper with the drawn side facing down, on the T-shirt. Place a towel over it and iron it for 30 seconds. You will have the design 'printed' on the T-shirt. It will remain even after you wash the T-shirt or the cloth, as water will not remove the wax. You can draw

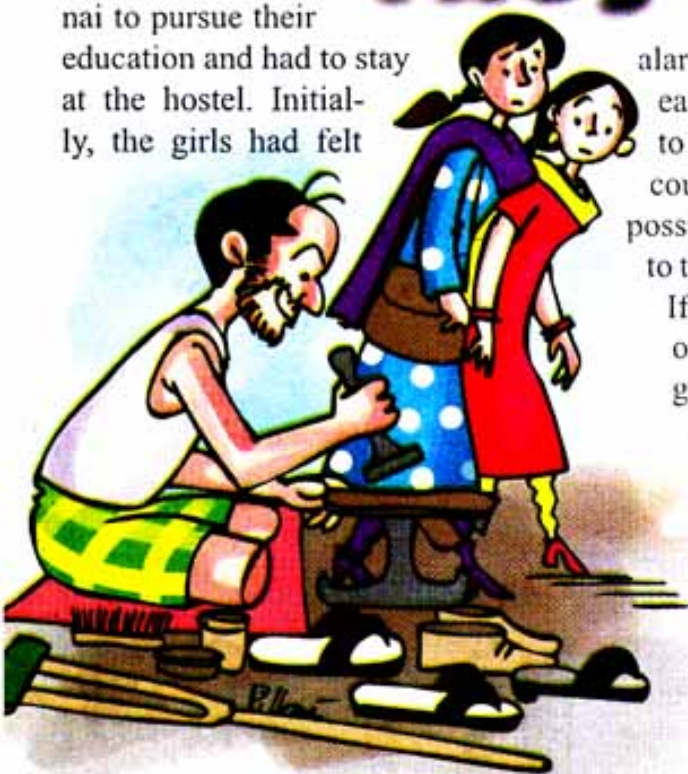


The girls woke up everyday to the clatter of buckets and rushed to the bathroom for their morning ablutions. This was the usual practice for them as living in a hostel had its advantages. Priya, and Ramya had come to Chennai to pursue their education and had to stay at the hostel. Initially, the girls had felt

lonely and out of place and became emotional whenever they spoke to their parents, but soon they got accustomed to hostel life.

Their routine began with the

They Learnt



alarm clock ringing in their ears. Then they would rush to the bathrooms so that they could get ready as quickly as possible. Then they would hurry to the 'mess' for their breakfast. If they did not reach the mess on time, they would have to go without the morning meal, since the mess followed very strict timings. They would attend college and in the evenings, back at the hostel, they would wait in queue for a long time to use the telephone, since using the cell-phone was not allowed. And studying for their

Teachers make our lives colourful, joyful and happy. Some of them make a mark in our lives. One such teacher who has made a mark in my life is Vaishali Miss. She is a marvellous teacher and I don't think I can ever forget her.

She teaches us literature and geography. She is excellent in her teaching and it is because of her that I scored

AT SCHOOL

99 on 100 in literature.

She teaches us geography with a map. She teaches us everything with an example so that we can understand better. She also shares many of her experiences with us. She gives us extra informa-

The Teacher

A STORY FROM OUR READER

tests and homework, the computer programming and language would sound like Greek and Latin to them. At times, they felt their way of life really was not worth it - they would

thing in life but that they did not see worth in what they had. They also realised that they were failing to utilize what they had.

A dramatic transformation oc-

to be Positive!

get fed up.

One day they saw an advertisement in the paper announcing computer coaching classes. Bored with their routine, they decided to sign up for them. On their way to class every day, they saw a man without legs by the pavement, a cobbler, working very hard - and with a smile on his face. The girls saw him everyday and when they got talking to him, they discovered that all his hard work was to educate his child. And he seemed to have no complaints. He was happy with his work and was happy with the progress his child was making in school. The girls then realised something important - that they had every-

curred. They became more attentive in class and did not waste away their time. No more did they complain of their routine either. They studied hard for their computer centre exams too. Thus it was no surprise when they topped their exams and came out with flying colours. They received scholarships for further computer studies which they accepted.

And when they did finish their studies, they received good jobs and most important of all, they learnt to enjoy what they did. Hard work and a positive approach had worked wonders.

- P.Sushma, Age 15,

Dolphin Public School, Madurai

tion that will help us in competitive exams, quizzes, etc. She teaches us dance too, if there are programmes. I always enjoy her classes and anticipate them with joy.

But sadly, she is leaving the school and there will be no fun without her. I will miss her a lot.

- V. Chandana, Std. VII, Bethany School, Vishakapatnam.

I can Never Forget



BIRTHDAYS

GONE BY



V. Srinath celebrated his 18th birthday on 26th June.

Who knows what the time ahead has for you in store.

We are sure there's just success, celebration, love, hope and happiness galore.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Love overflows from
Amma, Appa and Shrilekha



My dear sister S. Harini celebrated her 11th birthday on June 27th.



My hearty wishes to her.

- S. Bhavya,
Std. VI, Little
Flower Convent,
Tiruppur

N. Adaikkappan celebrated his 12th birthday on June 7th, 2008.

May blessings shall shower upon you from heaven.

- Narayanan (Father)

Valliammai (Mother)

Adaikkappan (Grandfather)

Nagu (Younger brother)



My friend B. Shwetha celebrated her 13th birthday on 18th June.

- Friend R. Priyanka,
Chennai-49

Our daughter N. Swetha Priya

celebrated her birthday on 4th June.



We wish her a successful life!

Happy Birthday!

- Mummy, Daddy,
Rajarajeshwari
and Narayanan



BIRTHDAY BASH



K. Indra Priyadarshini celebrates her 12th birthday on 10th July.

May God shower His precious blessings on her.

- Mom, Dad,

Brother (Abi), Grandpa, Grandma, Uncle,

Aunt and Hariharan

Adhithya celebrates his 2nd birthday on 20th July, 2008.

Wishes from

- Sree Vandana



S. Nayantara celebrates her twelfth birthday on 29th July, 2008

Many, many happy returns of the day! May you achieve your highest dreams. Best of luck for a bright and prosperous future.

- GK Thatha, Mummy, Daddy, Karthik Mama, Shailaja Mami, Cousin Harshith and Friends



B. Swetha celebrates her 12th birthday on 9th July 2008.

May Almighty God bless Swetha to become a dutiful citizen of India!

- Grandpa K. Tholasiram and her parents





June 5th is celebrated as World Environment Day every year. We all know how important it is for us to protect the environment. The United Nations has a special organ to deal with issues affecting the environment. It is called the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was founded as a result of the United Nations conference on Human Environment, in June 1972, and it's headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP also has

regional offices and various country offices. UNEP provides leadership and encourages partnership among nations and people, in caring for the environment.

It does this by inspiring, informing and enabling peoples to improve their qualities without compromising with that of future generations.

UNEP's activities cover a wide range of issues regarding the atmosphere, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Amongst it's most famous projects is the development of **Solar Loan** programme that helped 1,00,000 people to get finance for solar power system in India.

The UNEP is a great organisation, no doubt. But how do we contribute to environment protection.

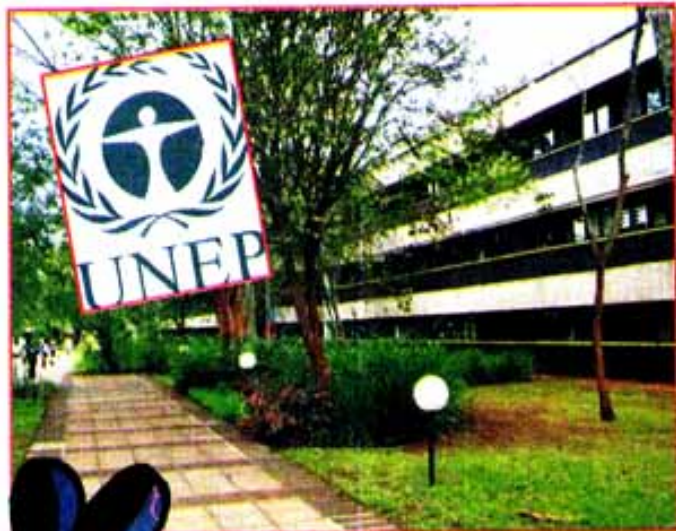
Industrialisation has now lead to degradation of environment. Air pollution, water pollution, soil / land pollution have now become very

Man Belongs



ENVIRONMENT

common terms. The destruction of rainforests in South America and Asia is a major environmental disaster. Can we stop this? Well! it's a really big task but recycling,



re-using, reducing and harnessing clean fuel can be profitable.

India being a mega-biodiversity country, while following the path of development is also sensitive to conservation of environment. India occupies only 2.4% of world's to-

tal land area and it's contribution to world biodiversity is approximately 8%.

At this critical situation man has understood the importance of environment and biodiversity. At this last minute we can still help in conserving our environment. But we must remember that man is the main cause of this problem and must always remember that environment is not a public property, which can be exploited to it's utmost. Man belongs to it and not vice-versa!

- Divya Das, Std.X,

Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya,
Port Blair

to It!



From SINNER to SAINT

Story: A. Vandana
Std. XII, D.T.E.A.S.S.,
New Delhi
Pictures: Lalitha

As sage Narada traversed the forest happily, a dacoit...

Narayana!
Narayana!

Ha! Hapless
victim of
mine...



Give me all that you have,
or I shall kill you!

Narayana, Vasudeva!
Stop it my friend!



Friend..? Whom do you call a
friend...? Eh..?



You, my son... Why
are you so rude and
aggressive?

Ha! Trying to be polite,
aren't you? I plunder in
order to feed my family.



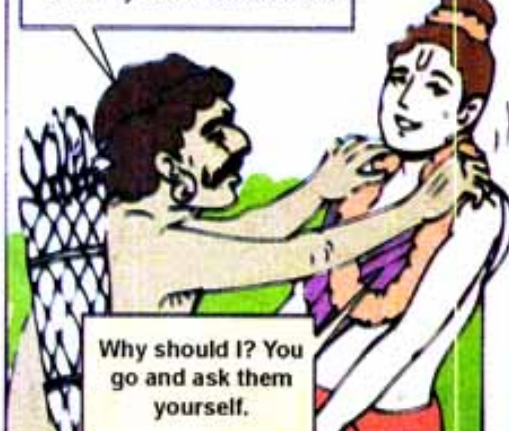
Don't you know that
such vile acts will take
you to hell...?

What do you mean...? To
see my family starve is to
suffer hell on
earth.



But does your family know how you make
money..? Would they share your sins?

Don't try to out-smart me...



Why should I? You
go and ask them
yourself.

The dacoit was provoked...

Sure, why not? But you stay right here till I come back.

Narayana
Narayana

The dacoit went back home.

Certainly not!

Don't you all know that I rob to feed you..? Would you share my sin...?

No!

Never!

Sorry Pappa!

Why should I bear the burden of sin, when my family is not ready to share it with me!

Holy sirl! You were right. Forgive me and guide me.

Rise my son.

Friend, Always chant the divine Mahamantra Rama! Rama! Rama!

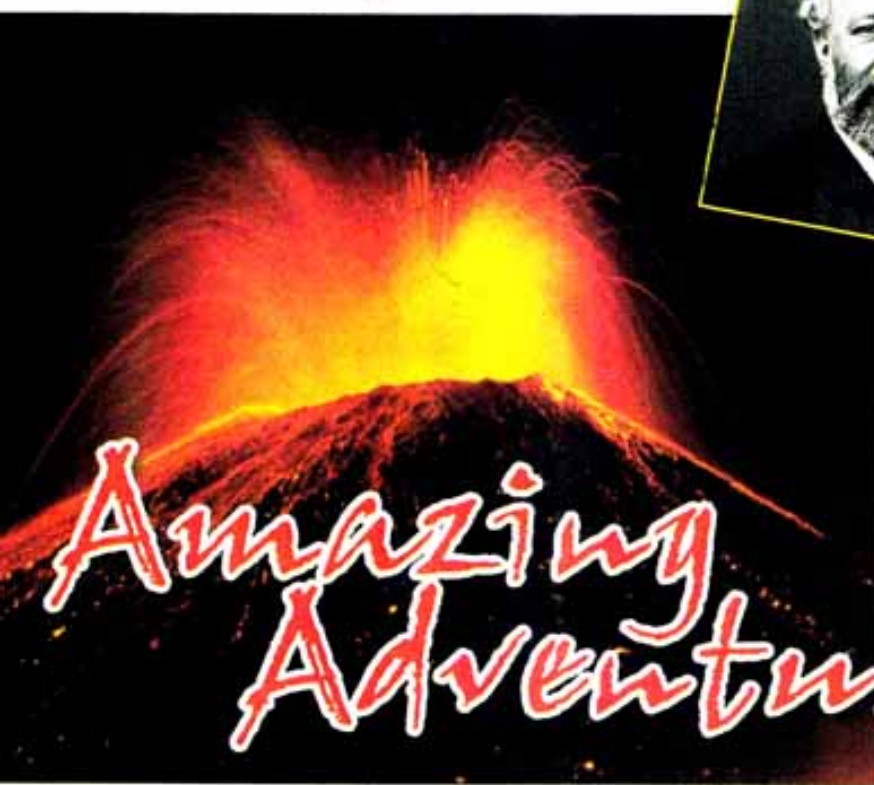
...And the dacoit did as Narada advised. Soon he dissolved himself into the mantra, forgetting food, water and sleep. Ants built their hills over his seated frame... He later became a saint and wrote a great epic. Can you guess who he was..? The first five readers to write in the correct answer will win prizes! Write to : Gokulam, 'Guess Who - July' issue, Kalki Buildings, Chennai - 600 032

BOOK SHELF

Most people think of science fiction as a feature of the modern world, but some of the best science fiction stories were written more than a hundred years ago, by the French writer, Jules Verne. Many things that he wrote about, have since come true! His stories '20,000 Leagues Under

ground stream and subsequently an underground sea.

During the course of their journey, they meet many ancient creatures. At last they enter another volcano



Amazing Adventures

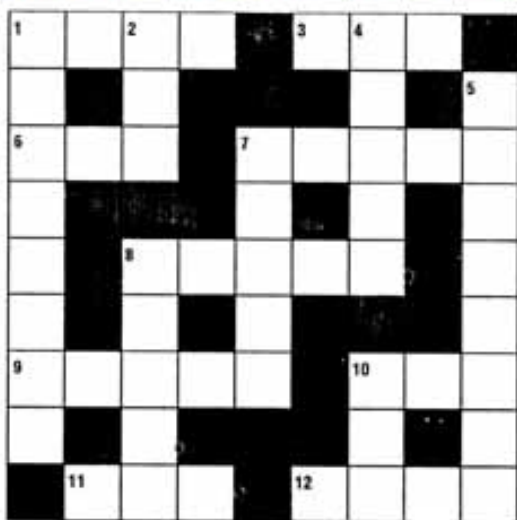
the Sea' and 'Around the Moon' are now more facts than fiction.

One among Jules Verne's stories is 'A Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. In this story, he tells about Alex and his uncle and their journey to the centre of the earth. Their journey starts at the Sneffels volcano. Then they reach an under-

and emerge out on Stromboli in the Mediterranean Sea!

It is a good story for those who love travel and adventure. While I read it, I was in a new world. And when I finished it, I was so happy and excited, as if I had myself made a long journey to the Centre of Earth. So go on, read it.

- G.Parvathy, Std.X,
Nirmala H.S.S., Aluva, Kerala



Across :

1. A bald man needs this no more (4)



Gullu's Crossword***12

3. This and tide make a wave (3)

6. Change two to drag (3)

7. This stick cleans (5)

8. Some people too do this under pressure! (5)

9. William Harvey first identified its circulation (5)

10. to be under obligation (3)

11. An exemplary insect! (3)

12. A tired man needs this. (4)

Down :

1. A charming infant (4,4)

2. To cut down grass (3)

4. Obstruct (5)

5. Known to be in the offing (8)

7. Hallmark or trademark (5)

8. In a circus, he sure makes us laugh (5)

10. A square of this is the number itself (3)

- G.S. Subramanian



Gullu's

Crossword - 10

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 10 (May 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 11 will be published in the August 2008 issue.

1. B.C.Akanksha, Std.V, Vidyodaya Public School, Udupi
2. M.J. Sundara Lakshmi, Std.VII, St. Ignatius' Convent H.S.S., Palayamkottai
3. N.Eshwin Iyer, Std.V, K.F.I. School, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.



4. Shruti Balaji, Std.VIII, Oakridge International School, Hyderabad
5. L.Sneha, Std.III, Vidyaniketan Public School, Bengalooru - 60

Gullu's Crossword - 12 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms)	
Age :	Class :
School :	
* Residential Address :	
..... Pin	
Signature :	

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

**The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 20.7.2008

What do you give a sick bird?
Tweetment!

What do you give a sick pig?
Oinkment!

What do you give a sick frog?
A hoperation!

Where do you take a sick bee?
To waspital!

Where do you take a sick dog?
To the dogtor!

Where do you take a sick horse?
To horsepital!

Where do rabbits get glasses?
At the hoptician!

- Sheethal R.Holla, Std.VII,
Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Bengalooru



Ramki

SICK AND CRAZY!

POTTERING AROUND

Recently at the James Joyce Awards, J.K. Rowling was asked if she thinks of the actors when she writes. Jo said, "to be honest, no, the only actor or actress who has ever intruded while writing was Evanna Lynch, who is absolutely perfect as Luna. And I must admit I have heard her voice in my head when I wrote the book."

Neville visits his parents in

St. Mungo's and his mother presses sweet wrappers on him.

JKR says, "I always

But, people got stuff very unnervingly right, very often."

Jo also says "The difficulty I did have was, I made a rule so tight it was sometimes hard to navigate around it myself. But finding a way to get in and out of Hogwarts was always a bit of a challenge. I was quite proud of Aberforth's tunnel. I like him."

Of interest are her comments regarding the post lines and several of the characters. The author said some of the less crucial story lines were not always planned right from the beginning, but evolved as she went along. "But the big ones, the Dumb-



The Story of

saw this as a poignant moment."

There was a theory that she's passing secret messages on the sweet wrappers. "There have been loads of theories" she says. I remember a woman saying to me 'I think Snape loves Lily.' I was stunned. 'Oh my God what the hell did I give away?'

ledore story line, the Snape story line were planned because the series is built around those" she says.

When asked about the development of story line of Dumbledore and Snape, Jo said, "With Dumbledore quite deliberately, you find

The latest news from Potter world is that the first book in the seven HP book series has been made required reading for A-level English students in Britain, alongside English literature classics like William Shakespeare's Hamlet and Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, The Assessment and Qualifica-

tions Alliance, UK's largest exam board that is responsible for nearly half the country's exams has decided to offer *Philosopher's Stone* as a 'set text' for A-level English students. Those taking English language and literature A level exams next year will study this book along with one other for the module.

out little about his own private life because his interactions with Harry are always about Harry, which sets up the fact that in the seventh book Harry thinks 'but why did I never ask?'

"And I think also that Dumbledore had always been a god-like figure to Harry in some ways, that he felt he couldn't ask him personal questions.

"Snape, on the other hand, I had to drop clues all the way through, because, as you know, in the seventh book when you have the revelation scene where everything shifts and you realize what Snape's motive was. It was a complicated plotting process but by the time Philoso-

Jo's Storyline!

pher's Stone was finished, I definitely knew all the big things about Snape and Dumbledore and they're the two most important characters in the 7th book."

Source : Internet

- J.Vishnu, Std.IX, Shiksha Kendra M.H.S.S., Vellore

'Themes in Language and Literature'. They will have to write a 1,200 to 1,500 word course work comparing the approach of Rowling to that of the other writers'.

(Source : The internet)



Let's Play!



COLOURING COMPETITION



Colour this playful scene and fill up the coupon below. Pull out and send your entry to Gokulam, 47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 32 before 20.7.2008. The best 3 entries will win Rs.100 each!

My Name :

Class : School :

Residential Address :



Gift to My Grandma

We went to DakshinChitra on the outskirts of Chennai for our school excursion this year. It is a beautiful place and we were able to learn a lot about our states and their culture. We were allowed to shop for some time. I bought a toy and a keychain. I also bought bangles for my sister but I did not know what to get for my grandma as her needs are very limited. At last I found a stone ring for her. I don't ever remember her wearing something of that sort so I gave her the gift with some hesitation. But she was very happy and pleased and kissed me. To my surprise and joy she wore it every day until it broke and she could wear it no more.

- G. Siddarth, Std. IV,
Shrishti Vidhyashram, Vellore.

HELPING TO SEE

While we were in Madurai, my mother served as a voice volunteer for the blind during week days. One evening of a second Saturday, she received a phone call asking her to come and read as the regular volunteers did not turn up. Besides, our house was close to the blind library.

I went with my mom to go see what she did and in the process, read out some lessons to a college student. I did it with great pleasure and tears rolled down my cheeks as the student caught hold of my hands and thanked me for helping him. He had to write that portion for an exam the next day. It was an experience in giving that I will never forget.

- Ajit Rengaswamy,
Aged 14, M.C.T.M.Chidambaram
Chettiyar Matric H. S.S.,
Chennai.





Bear It!

Once we had gone on a family holiday to Top Slip. It is located in the Western Ghats. We stayed in the guest house in the middle of the forest. That night we heard a scratching sound on the front door. My great

grandfather asked us to place a heavy table against the door, so that it could not be opened.

He then asked us to look through the window. We saw a great bear. My great grandfather had transformed what could be a frightening experience into a wonderful one!

- A.Ashwin Vayiravan,
Std.X, T.V.S. Matric,
Madurai

I Went Places!

We had our art exams recently, and we were asked to draw a vehicle used for space travel, perhaps Mars. I was horrified when I read the topic. My mind was blank. Then I re-



membered Gokulam's November issue (2007) 'Let's Go Places'.

I drew my picture using that information. All my teachers appreciated my drawing. My friends admired it. As expected, I got an 'A' grade. I was proud and happy to tell everyone that 'Gokulam' was my inspiration.

- Priscilla Nishi, Std.VII,
L.O.V.E. School,
Yercaud

"It's me, Raksha." the Gujju girl whispered, sitting on the cot next to Jassy." "I've been sleepless over what's going to happen next. Tomorrow the date is 13th of December."

"Oh come on Raksha, nothing is going to happen, now that we have all been forewarned." Jassy tried to make a bold statement. "And regarding this fixation you have about No13, I'm sure you'll end up acquiring a Phd on that."

"Do you think I can do that?" the girl suddenly cheered up to a pleasant mood.

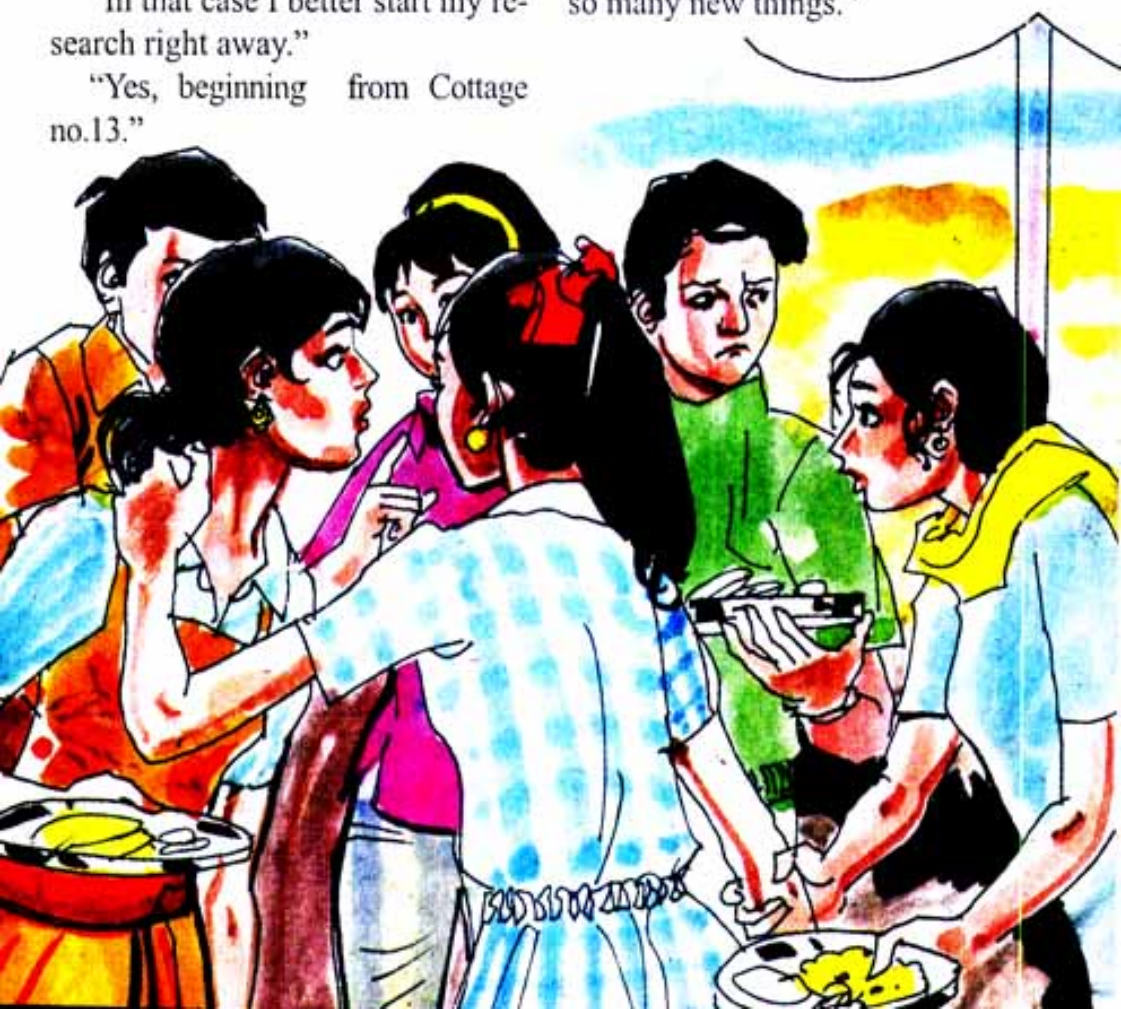
"In that case I better start my research right away."

"Yes, beginning from Cottage no.13."

The girls laughed and felt much lighter. They went on to sleep till late in the morning before Sonali and Emilda had to literally shake them awake.

It was a more relaxed day and after the vintage walk and visit to the museum, the group set out to the ancient town of Mahabalipuram before returning to their base at the heritage village in the wee hours of the evening.

"It was a wonderful experience!" they exclaimed as they jumped out of the S.U.V one by one. "We learnt so many new things."



"Good, now that you have all the matter and photographs on hand, you can set to drafting your individual projects," Mr.Parthasarthy began. "End of the week we all gather to discuss what you think about the things you have seen and learnt and how you interpret them in the present day scenario."

As the co-ordinator took leave, the gang of boys and girls proceeded towards the reception to collect their cottage keys. The man at the

counter had a message from Delhi. It was for Jaspreet.

"One Mr.Sukhwinder Singh had called up," he conveyed. "He said he'll phone you again here, since he's not able to reach you on the cell."

"Oh,I forgot to charge my cell." Jassy mentioned. "That was my dad on the phone."

"When did he say he'll call up again?"

"Around seven-o-clock."

Cottage No.13

"Ah, it's quarter to seven already. I better wait."

She then turned to the rest of the group and asked them to proceed.

"I'll join you shortly."

The boys and girls reached their respective cottages, they found themselves totally exhausted.

"We did enough walking for one whole year." Varun grumbled as he slumped on to his cot."I'm going to have a quick grub and sleep till noon tomorrow."

"Remember we have a bon-fire tonight..." said Rajeev. "Is it!" and Varun was on his feet at once. "Who told you so?"

"I saw it mentioned on the notice



board near the reception counter next to the telephone where Jassy stayed behind to” Rajeev stopped short and without a second word, rushed out to the neighbouring cottage to check if the girl from Delhi was back.

“No, she has not yet come.” Emilda answered. “Probably she’s having a long chat with her dad but then it’s already eight and and.....”

Suddenly the entire gang realized the seriousness of the situation.

“Oh my God!” they gasped as they went sprinting behind Rajeev and the rest of the boys.

They couldn’t have expected worse for when they reached the reception there was no sign of Jassy. The man at the counter said that she had left for the cottage, long back after having had to answer a wrong call.

The children now had sweat bubbles spreading over their tense fore-heads. They ran hither and thither in all directions calling “Jassy! Jassy!” at the top of their voices. The word spread around and in no time Mr.Parthasarthy arrived on the spot, to convene a search team and hunt

"I knew something I had warned Jassy

all around the multi-acre heritage village. The security guards were instructed not to allow anybody or any vehicle to get out of the premises without permission. Every nook and corner, bush and tree was scrutinized under flood lights but there was no sign of the missing girl.

Jaspreet Kaur had simply vanished into the thin air!

That night, none of the kids felt like eating or sleeping. They cursed themselves a hundred times for being so careless as to leave Jassy all alone.

“But then it was just a matter of few minutes and how far is our cottage from the reception area!” Emilda reasoned. “Who would even anticipate such a thing could happen!”

“But I knew something would go wrong today.” Raksha came out with her prophesy. “It’s the 13th of December and I had warned Jassy last night about this.”

“But you couldn’t stop what was to occur, could you?” Varun chipped in sarcastically. “This is what hap-

Every nook and corner, bush scrutinized under flood lights sign of the missing girl.



would go wrong today and
Last night about this."



pens with all these nonsense prophecies."

"Now don't be harsh Varun," Sonali came to her friend's rescue. "Raksha had an intuition of evil befalling and unfortunately it's come true. Now all we can do is pray that Jassy remains safe and unharmed wherever she is."

Just then as though her plea was being heard, Mr. Parthasarthy's cell phone began beeping. The co-ordinator raised it to his ears and as he listened, intently, his face crimsoned with friction.

"That was Jaspreet's father from Delhi," he said, sinking his face into a pair of trembling palms. "She has been kidnapped and held at a hefty ransom!!!"

The abductors had informed Mr. Sukwinder Singh to transfer one crore rupees to a specific account in Delhi. Once that was done and approved, he could fly down to Chennai to take his girl. But period inbetween, if he acted smart to inform the police, then he could as well forget that he ever had a daughter.

"So," the terrified Dad had requested Mr. Parthasarthy, "Please don't lodge a complaint with the police. My daughter is more important than all the wealth in this world."

"But Sir, we can't let the culprits get away that easily," the children reasoned. "And what's the guarantee that they won't do this to her again!"

"You see, we can't go against Mr. Singh's command." The co-ordinator was clear. "We'll have to wait till he arrives and then decide what's to be done next."

"But he can be here not before tomorrow evening!" the children looked annoyed. "And that gives enough time for the culprits to escape, wherever they are hiding."

"Don't worry, I'll myself stand at the exit all night and day to keep a tab of who's going out and who's walking in" Mr. Parthasarthy seemed confident. "If the abductors are still lurking inside this heritage village, then I'm hundred percent sure they can't get out that very easily."

"But Sir, how can you identify them?" Varun raised a point. "I don't think even Rajiv could identify them. After all they had their faces masked when they at-

and tree was
but there was no



"Isn't he wearing a red and black checked shirt beneath his coat?"

tacked him last."

"I know, they have played their cards very very well," The co-ordinator agreed. "But then we just have to give it a shot and hope for the best."

Mr. Parthasarthy kept vigil at the reception area, the whole night and the children joined him early morning after having had just a few winks of sleep. He took leave for half an hour to go, freshen up as the boys and girls took his place.

"You can all proceed to the restaurant and have breakfast while I keep a watch-out" Rajeev proposed reclining on the arm chair overlooking the reception counter. "And get something packed for me to gobble up here."

That seemed sensible and as the six of them left for the dining area, the boy in charge tried to rack his brains to see if he could recollect anything significant about the attackers which could make it easy to identify them.

"Hey, what's the matter?" Anik asked pushing himself on to an empty chair. They were at the breakfast buffet, piling food on to their plates.

"Just look at what that guy there at the corner table is wearing!" the

Madrasī whispered, trying to balance his plate. "Isn't he wearing a red and black checked shirt beneath his coat?"

"You, mean....." Anik had his heart thumping as he quietly fished out the piece of material from his trouser pockets. "Yes, it's the same pattern."

"Oh my Godddddd.....!"

The others circled immediately to know what the matter was.

"Hush! Hush! All of you now don't turn and glance at the same time," Anik whispered his observation to them cautiously.

"But then, how can you be so sure it's the same!" Varun challenged.

"I have an idea." Suresh suggested hurriedly. "Why don't one of us drop our plate all over the guy's coat and make it seem like an accident. He'll be forced to remove it."

"Brilliant!" the children whispered excitedly in one voice.

Emilda proposed to take up the task and the next time she proceeded from the buffet counter she pretended to trip over her high heels and splashh! All that was piled on her plate fell neatly over the startled guy in the grey coat.

(To conclude next month)

Text and Illustrations by :
AAZHI

LIFE AND AGE

Scientists have established that creatures with large brains usually live longer than those with small gray matter (brain). They also say that mammals and large sized creatures have a longer life span than small or tiny creatures.

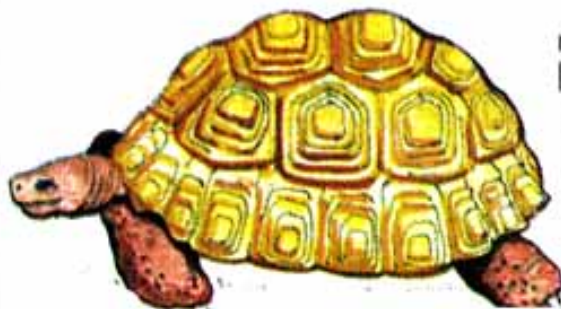


The blue whale is the largest aquatic mammal. It stretches to about 37 metres in length and weighs a hundred and sixty tons. It lives for about fifty years. It's age is determined by the wax ear plugs that cover its hole-like ears.



The largest land-dwelling mammal is the elephant. Four metres in height, it weighs a hefty four tonnes and lives a solid eighty years. A zoo-bred elephant - Princess Alais - lived for a 152 years in the London Zoo! The creases on an elephant's ears and the thickness of its 'toe nails' indicate the creature's age.

Among mammals that live on land, the tiniest is the mouse whose life span is barely four years.



Sea-turtles which fall under the reptile category, are the longest living creatures. In 1777, Captain Cook visited Tonga Islands in the Pacific Ocean. He gifted the king of that nation a sea turtle. This creature continued to live till 1977 - two hundred long years!

Among fish, the sturgeon lives longest - upto a hundred years.



Cod fish live up to fifty years. The circles around a fish's eye, indicate its age.

Deer have a life-span of thirty years. The branches on a deer's antlers are counted to know its age. Add one to the number of branches and you know how old the deer is. If there are six branches, then the deer would be seven years old!



The spiral lines that run around a goat's horns are counted to know a goat's age.



Crocodiles live for sixty years or so. The scaly protrusions on this reptile's back indicate its age.



The tarantula spider is the longest living insect. It grows up to eight centimetres in size and lives for two years.



Cicadas are just four centimetres long with a wing-span of seven centimetres. These creatures hatch as larva underground and remain there in cocoons for upto seventeen years. They live off the sap of trees which they draw from roots. They then develop wings and emerge out and live only for seven days afterwards!

The May-fly has only a day to live, on emerging from its pupa. It only has a body but no mouth or stomach!



It was Major Stanley Flower, a curator in the Cairo Zoo, who first researched on and documented the life-span of several animals and made the same available world over.



* Gorilla - forty years



* Horse - forty years

* Dog - twenty years



* King cobra thirty five years



The eagle, among birds, has the longest life-span - a hundred years!

Seventy years is the accepted average life span of a human being. The oldest man lived for a hundred and fifteen years in Britain. Over two thousand people of over a hundred years of age, are believed to exist in Georgia, Russia!





or feeling. To motivate means to encourage and inspire.

The most powerful motivation comes from within our belief system. To move into action, we need to believe in what

we do and accept responsibility for our life and when we accept responsibility for our behaviour and actions, our attitude towards life becomes positive. We become more productive

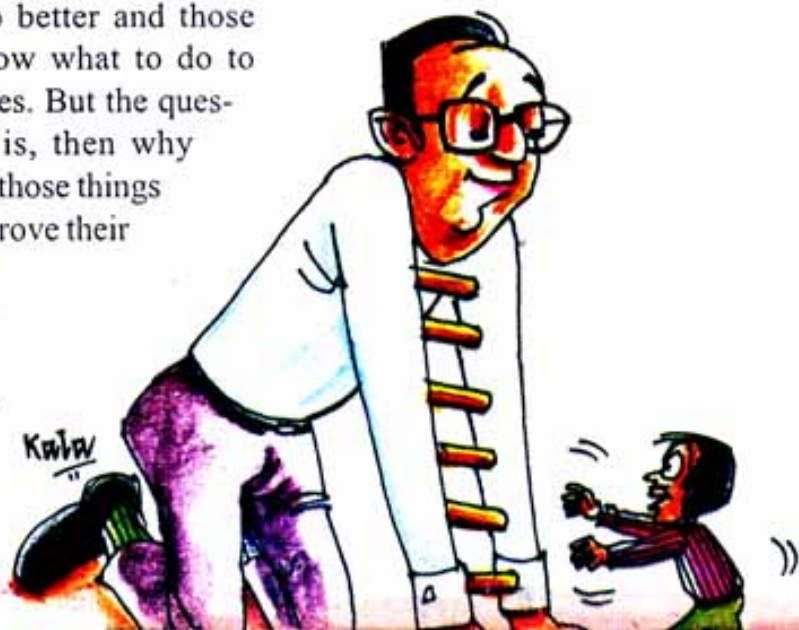


'M' for Motivation!

Generally there are two kinds of people : those who are good but can do better and those who already know what to do to improve their lives. But the question that arises is, then why aren't they doing those things which would improve their lives?!

Usually, what is missing is the spark called motivation.

Motivation is a drive that encourages action



ESSAY



tors are responsibility and recognition...

Be a motivator for others and motivate them by:

- giving respect
- giving recognition
- being a good listener
- encouraging goal setting
- throwing a challenge
- helping
- providing training

both personally and professionally.

We may get externally or internally motivated but internal motivation is very significant and creates a long term effect. External motivation is caused by desire for fame, fear of failure, desire for societal approval, money etc. But internal motivation comes from within due to a sense of achievement, responsibility, pride and belief. It is a feeling of whole some accomplishment - of deep, joyous satisfaction which goes beyond the goal and achievement. The most important internal motiva-

Motivate others and get yourself motivated too! Observe how life becomes productive and fulfilling!

- Swati Mishra,
Std.XII, Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Puri



“And the first rank for the quarterly exams goes to Hari Sharma!” the teacher announced in class fifth ‘A’.

Hari was a very intelligent student. He had never missed the first rank in his life. He always found new things to be very easy to learn. All the teachers praised him regularly.

“Hari really surprises everyone. He is truly a wonder kid” they would say.

At the tender age of ten, Hari had read many books that even the tenth class students had not read. The principal too, was stunned at Hari’s talent.

One day, the teacher was so pleased with Hari’s work that she said, “Marvellous, Hari! Your work is so advanced. For your level, you

class, he met the teacher again and asked, “Ma’am, do you think what you said could come true?”

The teacher was taken aback, and then she took him to the principal and told him what had happened.

“Hmm. Yes, it is possible,” said the principal. “I was thinking along the same lines as you for a long time. I can promote Hari to the tenth standard. if he wants. Let us try it out!”

Hari was thrilled. He was going to the tenth! Unfortunately this got to his head. The next day when he entered class tenth ‘A’, he introduced himself by saying, “Hello everyone! I am Hari Sharma, the brightest kid in school!”

At this, some faces showed signs of irritation and displeasure.

“What does he think of himself,

... FIRST
RANK FOR
THE QUARTERLY
EXAM GOES TO...

should be in the tenth standard!”

Hari glowed. “Thank you ma’am!” he said. How wonderful if this became true, he thought. So later, outside the



the young creep? I wonder how he got here" they whispered to each other. But Hari took no notice and settled in. Within two months, he had mastered the tenth syllabus, and even stood first in class in the next exam! Everyone was stunned. They began to look at Hari with increased respect.

"We thought he was bragging, but he is truly brilliant!" they told their class teacher who praised

I DON'T KNOW
THIS ONE
TOO!

Story



FAILED!

Hari even more.

But all this made Hari swell like a balloon. He began to boast everywhere, in order to get attention. Nevertheless, he studied hard in order to please the teachers and gain more influence. This worried the teachers and the principal, but they decided to wait for a while.

But one day, Hari really crossed the limit. "These dim-witted students are no match for me. I should be in college now!" he said openly in the presence of his classmates and teacher.

"That's it! Something must be done to stop him" the teacher

thought. "Listen to me," she told Hari. "I will set a maths test especially for you. If you just pass the test, then you will be promoted further. Do you agree?"

Without even thinking, Hari said, "That's fine with me, ma'am."

Soon the day of the test arrived. Hari felt confident. He had been poring over dozens of books, preparing for this test. The teacher gave him the question paper saying "All the best!"

Hari took one glance at the paper.

He saw that there were only five problems.

"This paper is way too easy!" said Hari aloud. The teacher smiled and said, "Start Hari."

When Hari took his pen and looked at the first question, his heart skipped a beat. He didn't know how to solve it! Then, he slowly moved on to the second one.

"What! I don't know this one too!" he thought, now getting afraid. With a pang of horror, he soon realised that he couldn't attempt the paper at all! He just sat there gaping at it, and his time was up!

The teacher looked at Hari's

...THE BRIGHTEST KID IN THE SCHOOL



answer sheet and said, "You haven't done anything? You failed Hari!"

"But... but how ma'am? I don't know the solution to these problems. Not even one of them!" said Hari, now ashamed.

"I will tell you, Hari. All these days, we were proud of you because you showed extraordinary talent. But of late, you have become proud of yourself, in fact, too proud. You do work hard, but only to please us and to hear our praise.

"You must remember that it is important to concentrate on your work. Your own satisfaction at doing your best is most important. It is more important than any praise or laurels. Do you understand now why you failed Hari?" asked the teacher.

"Yes I understand. I'm sorry ma'am, and I also apologise to all my classmates. But ma'am, why couldn't I solve even one problem? I know tenth maths perfectly, don't I?" asked a puzzled Hari.

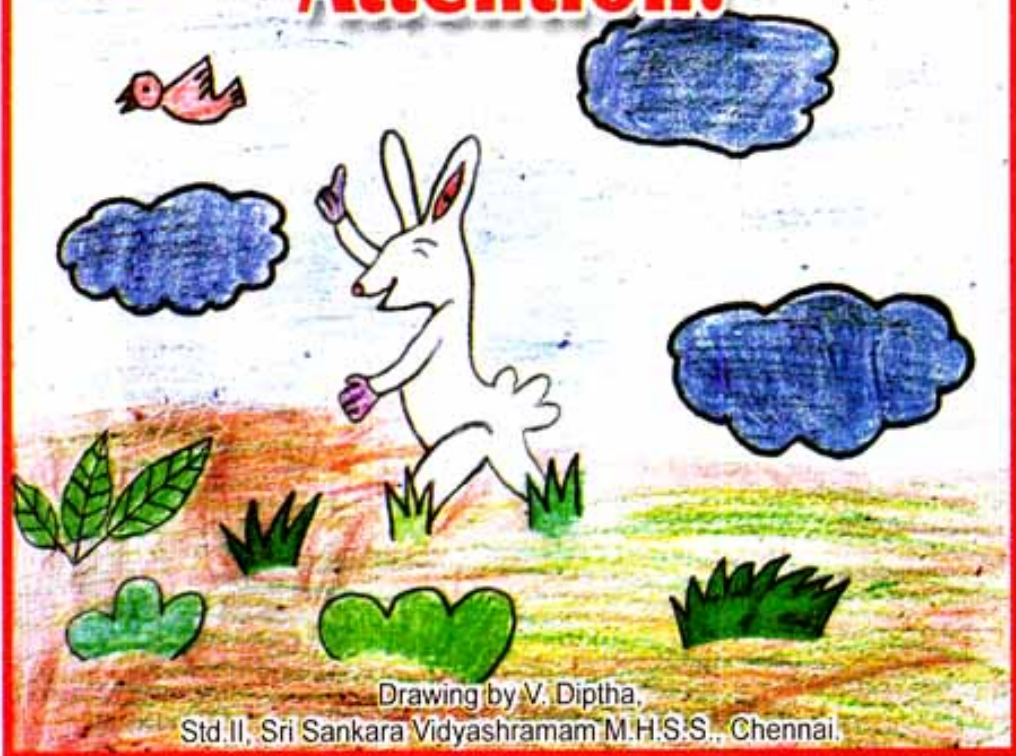
"Well, yes Hari," said the teacher. "But, I'm sorry, these problems are from class five portions!"

The teacher, and Hari both began to laugh and laugh.

"How silly I've been" said Hari, amidst tearful giggles!

- R.Aditya Krishna Haas,
Std.X, Vivekananda Res. School
Campus, Karim Nagar,
Andhra Pradesh

Attention!



Drawing by V. Diptha,

Std. II, Sri Sankara Vidyashramam M.H.S.S., Chennai.

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

- The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

- Please preserve your participation certificates. **In case you don't receive the certificates**

which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection. We shall be calling for this collection shortly!

- All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

- Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

- Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

**NEVER EVER
COPY!**

**All Gokulam
Readers and Contributors...**

KARSHINI TYAGARAJAN,

Std. VIII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Chennai - 83.



KIRTHI BALAKRISHNAN,

Std. VI,
City International School,
Pune.



SHRUTI,

Std. II,
New Horizon Public School,
Bengalooru.



R. VENKATACHALAM,

Std. VII,
Sri Venugopal Vidyalaya Matric.
H.S.School,
Chennai.

COLOUR BURST



DIKSHA DAS,

Std. VII,
Carmel Sr. Sec.
School,
Port Blair.

K.S. SUJITHA DEVI,
Std. X,
Raja Muthiah M.H.S. School,
Puliyur.



ABINAYA NATARAJAN,

Std. III,
The Brigade School,
Bengalooru.

My Little Brother

*I like my little brother
Who is as cute as a pie
I like him because he is
Shy, shy, shy.
Whenever you give him a
Toy, toy, toy
You will find him full of
Joy, joy, joy.
He walks on his knees
And likes spotting bees,
Gives them a pat
Whenever he sees.*

*To ask for ice cream, he
Screams, screams, screams.
On getting it he licks it up
Clean, clean, clean!
He never fears anyone,
Because he is loved by everyone!*



- T.Krishna Kumari,
Std.VIII, A.E.C. School,
Oscom, Orissa



THE DAY I WAS IN BED!

The day I was in bed!
With fever and heavy head.
I felt lonely and sad
Indeed it was bad!

My mother was out on work
And I went quite berserk
Left all alone in the house
I lay quiet as a mouse.

But then, what a wonderful surprise!
My mother did something
really nice.
She brought along my best buddy
To welcome HIM I was only too ready.



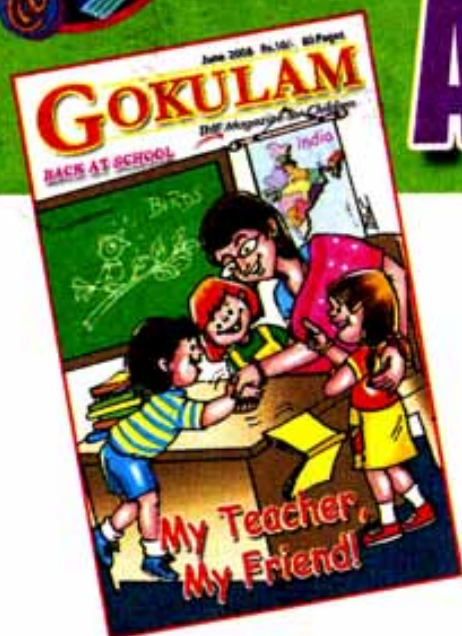
Any guess who this friend was...?
Yes, it was Gokulam, it was,
it was!

- Aisiri R.Shankar,
Std.VII, K.V., Chennai



Letter Box

A Decade



certificate to the new address. (as we have shifted our residence)

- R.Harish,
Std.VI, Air Force School, Hebbal,
Bengalocru

Dear readers,

The participation certificates are posted regularly by Gokulam but often do not reach you, due to postal vagaries. Those of you who are collecting the certificates to enter the competition can use xerox copies of your contributions instead of the missing certificates.

- Editor

☒ Hello Gokulam! We are one of your regular readers! You have inspired us to write articles! Please publish more mythological stories. We eagerly wait for Gokulam every month.

- Reshma Bhat, Rashmi Bhat,
Std.VII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Hubli

☒ I was surprised to see my art in Gokulam. But I didn't get the participation certificate. I love Gokulam very much. It is a fabulous magazine.

- Vipin Nair, Std.IX, Model
English H.S.School, Kalyan

☒ I am really very happy that my first contribution 'Ensuring Attendance' was published under 'School Events' in Gokulam May 2008 edition. I have shown it to my friends, teachers and the principal of my school. While I thank Gokulam for the same, I request the editor to kindly send me the participation

☒ I am a new reader of Gokulam. I do feel bad that I missed out on so much. My English comprehension has improved considerably since I became a Gokulam reader.

- V.Shrilekha, Jawahar
Vidyalaya, Chennai

☒ Gokulam has helped me and also been great entertainment. My favourites are Grandma worm, Billu and Cottage no-13.

- Chaithanya .P, Std.VII, KV2,
Kasaragod

☒ I've been an avid fan of Gokulam since 1995, when I was a tiny five year old. Gokulam attracts me like a magnet, even today. I really own my love and

with Gokulam!

passion for good books to Gokulam, from which I read my first stories. I am proud to see that even a decade later, my adorable magazine is still attracting young readers - my nine year old sister is one of them!

– **Jayashree Raman, Age 17, Chembur, Mumbai**

✉ Gokulam has helped me and also been great entertainment. My favourites are Grandma worm, Billu and Cottage no. 13.

– **Chaithanya .P, Std.VII, KV2, Kasaragod**

✉ I am very happy to inform you that I got a very good pen pal from Karaikudi through Gokulam. His name is Raja. We exchange a lot of views. Its fun writing letters and waiting for one. Well, in today's modern world, not many believe in

writing letters. But Gokulam has taught us the value of correspondence.

– **G.Pavithra, Std.X, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai**

✉ I have been reading Gokulam since I was six years old. I have grown with this magazine. It has given me a sea of knowledge. Thanks a lot!

– **Sreena Nair, Std.IX, S.I.C.E.S., Ambarnath (E), Thane**

✉ Gokulam is my favourite magazine. Its helps me improve both my general knowledge and creativity. The stories are interesting and the crossword puzzle is challenging.

– **N.Shweta, Std.X, TVSMHSS, Madurai**

✉ My elder sister Sonia, and I are crazy about Gokulam. We eagerly wait for its arrival. Sometimes, we fight over it, but end the fight with love. I want to celebrate my lovely sister Sonia's birthday with Gokulam and my fellow Gokulam readers.

– **Sonal Samantaray, Std.II, St.Xavier's H.S., Bhubaneswar.**

Dear Sonal,

Please send your birthday message for Sonia separately to 'Birthday Bash Column',

Gokulam, Chennai - 600 032



For so many centuries, the world has pondered and wondered about the supposedly extinct island continent of Atlantis. So far, no evidence or relics whatsoever have been recovered to prove the existence of this great and advanced civilization. All we have been investigating has its basis on a story put down by the well-known Greek philosopher Plato.

According to Plato, there existed a very large island somewhere in the region surrounding Troy, which is what we know today as the Mediterranean region. This island was home to an advanced race of people, who had made great strides when compared to the rest of the world. They had buildings, canal systems, provisions for drainage, educational insti-

tutions and an established social order. They were, however, very greedy and dominant, and wished to conquer other lands and rule over the people. Because of this, the Gods became angry and sent the natural forces to destroy the island, submerging it forever under the sea.

So far, scientific groups that have undertaken expeditions to discover the island, have not found anything conclusive. The island of Atlantis continues to remain shrouded in mystery. Was it real, or just a figment of Plato's imagination? You decide. If you know more, then share it with other Gokulam readers.

**- G.S.Anush Ramsurat, Std.X,
Indian School, Sohar,
Sultanate of Oman.**

YOU DECIDE!



GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

AUGUST 2008

GRAND ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

TOP OF THE WORLD!

*- a brand new feature on world
leaders of various fields by
SANDHYA SRIDHAR*



ZERO IN!

*- a fancy quiz for
word fanatics!
by GULLU*



ANTONY & GRANTINA!

*- the charming ant duo
take the world by storm!*

- concept and pictures by PILLAI

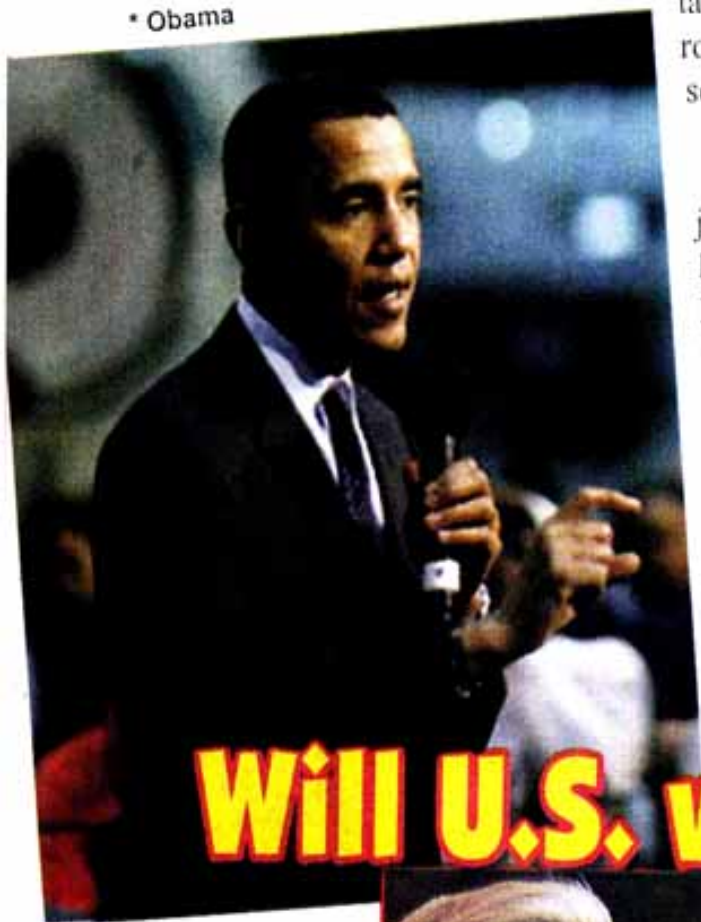


**MANY EXCITING COMPETITIONS
PAGES TO BE LAPPED UP;
PRIZES TO BE WON! DON'T MISS IT!**



The cost of petrol and diesel have gone up by Rs.5/- and Rs.3/- per litre and that of cooking gas by a whopping Rs.50/- per cylinder.

• Obama



Will U.S. vote for

• Hillary

"Inevitable" says our Prime Minister. "The cost of crude oil has risen steeply in international markets and we cannot protect the consumer entirely from its effects." However, the opposition feels that if the taxes on petroleum products are reduced, the prices can come down to reason-



able levels. But the finance ministry is not enthusiastic about it, since a sizeable portion of the government's revenue comes from these taxes. We can expect further all round price increase owing to soaring transport costs.

After a nine month journey, the "Phoenix Probe" landed in Mars safely and has sent pictures of the planet's Arctic plains. That the Phoenix Mars Lander had survived a difficult final descent, is by itself a great victory for NASA. While the U.S. space agency is sure that Mars is water rich, Martians may prove to be just our imagination. But

some kind of a life form is a possibility.

Both Nawaz Sharif and Zardari, partners in the ruling coalition in Pakistan, want Musharraf to go. But the president is in no mood to oblige. The law, as amended by, Musharraf is on his side, while people's power is with the present rulers. It is only a question of time before the constitution is amended

again by the newly elected parliament, to help the ouster of Musharraf.

• Gyanendra



leaders in our country.

• Musharraf



The Gujars in Rajasthan agitated for Scheduled Tribe status and when the agitation became violent some lives were lost in police firing. Finally they have agreed for talks with the state government and it is hoped there will be a peaceful settlement to the issue.

a Black President?

Nepal has become a republic. The constituent assembly duly elected by the people has declared that Nepal will be a secular state. It also abolished monarchy and asked king Gyanendra to quit the palace within fifteen days. The King bid farewell to the throne and moved to a modest summer retreat. But he has no intention of leaving Nepal and has indicated a desire to join national politics! That Nepal, the only Hindu state in the world, has lost that status, has saddened B.J.P.

Inner party democracy has thrown up Obama as the candidate for Democrats in the forthcoming U.S. presidential election. Hillary Clinton put up a stiff fight till the end but could not muster the required number of supporters. Obama, with the whole hearted support of Hillary, will now face McCain, the nominee of the Republican party, in the presidential election later this year. Obama, if elected will be the first black president of the United States.

Dear Grandma,

I want to get a state rank in the final Board Exams. Please advise me.

- M.Akshayaa, Chennai

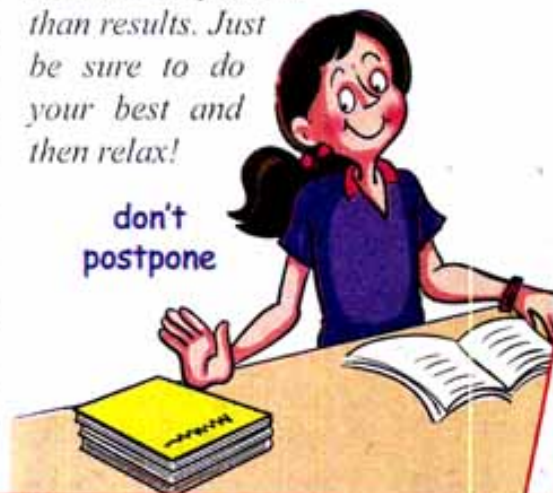
Dear Akshayaa,

There is only one way to get a good rank and that is work, and more hard work. However, I can give you some tips. (1) Writing is better than reading. It improves concentration and understanding of the subject. (2) When in doubt get a clarification from someone who knows. (3) Don't scribble. The habit will let you down in exams. (4) Studying model questions and answers is a good way to score marks but don't depend on it entirely.

Study thoroughly.

So that you are prepared to answer any question based on any matter found in any corner of your text books! (5) Don't postpone. Study and revise as and when lessons are being taught at school. And finally, (6) remember, your efforts are more important than results. Just be sure to do your best and then relax!

**don't
postpone**



PHYSICAL CHANGES!

Whenever I see beggars, I take pity on them and feel like helping them. Should I help them or not?

- Akshay Bhattad, Wadi

Dear Akshay,

There are people who take up begging as a profession, since they find it the easiest way to make money. They don't feel like working hard to earn a day's wages. These persons do not deserve our sympathy. There are other unfortunate people who are sick or maimed and cannot find work to suit their disabilities. Such people should be helped. It is easy to identify such beggars. However, the ideal situation would be where the state sets up a rehabilitation center for beggars, where they can be trained and given gainful employment even though they are handicapped.

should i help
them or not?



I am fifteen years old and I find some physical changes happening in my body. At times I get some alarming thoughts. I'm embarrassed!

- P.S.Prashanth,
Chennai



Dear Prashanth and Athreya,

Both of you have just reached the adolescent stage. It is like the beautiful butterfly coming out of the pupa stage. It is a wonderful period where there are new experiences of mind and body. But in order to accept these changes and not be afraid of them, you must understand these developments scientifically.

The best way to overcome your doubts is to talk to your dad. (Young girls will feel more comfortable



ALARMING THOUGHTS!

I have a friend at school who is indulging in bad habits. I don't want to avoid him. Instead I would like to help him to reform himself. But I'm also afraid that I will myself become like him!

I insist on accompanying my parents whenever they go shopping or to the temple, for, I'm afraid that I will be tempted to do something wrong if left alone! Please help.

- R.Athreya,
Chennai

talking to their mom.) Discuss your problems freely with him on a Sunday when he can spare some time for you. Be frank and honest. He will guide you properly. He will tell you what to do and what not to do. Follow his advise. You can even begin by asking him to read this answer to your question. This will make it easier for you to pursue the matter. Be sure not to be misguided by wrong persons. Your parents should be your first and last choice to seek guidance at this stage.

I want pen friends but my mom says that it is a dangerous hobby, especially for children. Is this true?

- Prashasthi Bhat,
Bengalooru

Dear Prashasthi,

What your mom says is partly true. There are a few people who write letters with bad intentions. Such people should not be encouraged. These letters are to be totally ignored. There are others who can be real friends and can write on a variety of subjects. You can learn a lot from their letters and in turn they can benefit from yours. Don't hide the letters you receive. Show them to your parents. They will tell you which letters deserve a reply and which don't.

I argue with my mother for everything, though I understand her love for me.

- Sruthi, Chennai



I disagree with my parents and sister on many things. I feel miserable later on. Please help.

- Divya Das,
Port Blair

Dear Sruthi and Divya,

Some children are so much under disciplinary pressure at school, that when they come home they become rebellious! They want to have their own way in anything and everything! They start arguing over petty matters. However you can overcome this habit if you realise that argument for argument's sake will lead you nowhere. Take a break as soon as you come home from school. Read your favourite author for a few minutes or watch a cartoon on the TV screen. Learn to laugh and enjoy life. You'll soon find that you can even be amused with an over burden of homework! Once tension is gone, silly arguments too will vanish. But don't hesitate to vent your view on important matters. Have your say, but don't rub it in too hard!

Love,
Grandmaworm

Maintaining strict discipline on the field is a must. Overwhelming feelings - of either joy or sorrow - cannot be given vent to on the field - certainly not to the extent of hurting others. Harbhajan can be allowed to play, only if he ensures this.

- G.Sailaxmi, Std.X, Sri Sarada M.S., Ariyakulam

Baji has already been punished. No need to ban him.

- R.Aishwarya,

Std.IX, Adarsh
Vidyalaya,
Chennai

To Ban or Not To Ban!

The tremendous contribution of Harbhajan Singh to the Indian team cannot be brushed aside. Since his presence counts, he must be advised and guided to keep calm and not banned. If he again misbehaves, he should be banned.

- Abhishek Chatterjee,
Std.XI, D.A.V. Public School,
Bhubaneshwar; S.Shreyaa
Vanju, Karaikal; C.Pavan
Kumar, Std.XI, Bharatiya
Vidya Bhavan Public School,
Hyderabad; R.Prashanth,
Std.X, DPS, Rourkela;
C.Adikeshav, Std.IX, Vel's
Vidyashram, Chennai;



Subhasree Srihari,
Std.X, Modern S.S.S., Chennai;
C.V. Sruthi, Std.IX, Amrita
Vidyalayam, Kovai; M.S.Akhila,
Std.IX, Poornaprajna
Education Centre, Bengalooru

All the team members must be trained to behave well on the field. They represent the country. Punishing Harbhajan must be an opportunity for him to correct himself.

- S.Meenakshi, Std.VIII,
Christnagar S.S.S.,
Trivandrum; Fathima Affra
Khan, Std.XII, Touheed P.U.
College, Gangolli



Harbhajan can be allowed to play since he has already apologised. To forgive is divine.

- M.G.Manjari, Std. IX, Montfort Centenary Academy M.S., Kanchipuram;
R.Reshma, Std.XI, T.V.S.M.H.S.S., Chennai

Allow Harbhajan to play after a short ban; if he repeats the same mistake, ban him for life.

- R.Priyanka, Std.VIII, SBOA Junior College, Chennai - 49

The main aim of sport is to unite the world and spread peace and harmony. But today the sports field has become a battle field! People like Harbhajan who contributed to this, should be banned from playing.

- A.Aswin Vayiravan, Std.X, T.V.S.M.H.S.S., Madurai

Both Harbhajan and Sreesanth have violated code of conduct and sportsmanship. If Sreesanth is allowed to play, Harbhajan must also be allowed to play.

- Manju Jayakumar, Std.XI, Vani Vidyalaya, Mumbai

It was Sreesanth who provoked Harbhajan. Baji should be warned; not punished.

- Sanjay Nayak, Std.V, Madhavakripa School, Manipal

Let him give his apology in writing to both Sreesanth and the concerned officials; and also an undertaking that if he commits such a



Should we shield ourselves from the influence of western culture?

Send us your views by 19.7.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school

QUESTION OF THIS MONTH

and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@ kalkiweekly.com)



mistake again, he will voluntarily retire from the game without waiting for anyone's judgement.

- **Parasar H.Lekha,**
Std.XI, Mumbai

If he is allowed to play, it will set a bad precedent. Cricketers are role models for youth. Players like Harbhajan should be banned for life.

- **V.Priya, Std.X, M.E.S.K.K.H.S.,**
Bengalooru; G.Saravanan, Std.
XII, Justice Basheer Ahmed
Sayeed Memorial M.H.S. Boys
School, Chennai; Pooja Prabhan,
Age : 15, Bishop Cotton Girls
H.S., Bengalooru.

Harbhajan is an extremely good player, no doubt; but his indiscipline should not affect the prestige of our country. Ban him.

- **Avilasha Satpathy,**
Std.X, K.V.2, Kalpakkam; Astra
Chowdary, Std.X, Bhashyam
Public School, Vizianagaram;
R.Kanmani, Std.VII, Vidyodaya,
Chennai; V.Somya, Std.X,
M.G.C.Vidyalaya, Trichy;
Manoj Ravi, Age : 15, M.V.M.
Chennai; N.Srividya, Hindu
S.S.S., Chennai; J.Arunkumar,
Std.X, Sacred Heart Convent,
Villupuram.

Sledging and abuse have become common among present generation of cricketers. With 20 - 20, cricket itself has become entertainment and a money-spinner rather than sport.

Players' behavioural changes also stem from this. No use in blaming or banning Baji.

- **K.Charlin, Std.XI,**
Nirmala M.H.S.S.,
Chidambaram; S.Srimathi,
Std.IX, Dr.P.G.V.M.H.S.S.,
Coimbatore

This is not the first time that Harbhajan has behaved badly. He should be taught a lesson so that neither he nor any other player will behave in this manner.

- **A.Kashyapan, Std.VIII,**
R.L.P.E.M.S. School, Shirpur;

V.A.Kafeela

Parvin,

Std. X,

O.L.F.G.H.S.

Mahila,

Panangad,

Kerala;

Meenakshi

Velumani,

Std.XII, Jeevana

School, Madurai;



K.Karen,
Std.X, Nirmala M.H.S.S.,
Chidambaram; B.Ravikumar,
Std.X, Sree Narayana Mission
S.S.S., Chennai; Gautam
Nagesh, Std.IX, D.A.V. Public
School, Thane; Nithin K.Dileep,
Std.IX, Amrita Vidyalayam,
Chennai; Biswaksen Panda,
Std.VIII, D.A.V. Public
School, Bhubaneshwar; Sonia
Samantaray, Std.VII, St.
Joseph's H.S., Bhubaneshwar.

ARTS & CRAFTS



Madhubani, a village in Bihar close to the Nepal border has given its name to a style of painting which has become very popular today. This art is traditionally done by the women in the family to welcome gods and goddesses to their household to bless them with prosperity. These paintings are made either on the walls or on the floor just outside the house. The preparation for the painting involves coating the surface of the wall or the floor with a paste of cowdung and mud. On the dark background provided by this paste, the paintings are made with white rice paste. The themes for the paintings are normally the Hindu gods and goddesses and stories from Hindu mythology. The colours for the paintings are produced from natural sources - the black is the soot from the bottom of a cooking pan, the yellow is pollen, the red colour is obtained from a local clay and the blue is from the indigo plant. In fact

only natural materials are used in the making of these paintings. Even the brush is just a sharpened or a flattened twig.

The figures in these paintings have certain distinct characteristics. Though the bodies of the figures always face the front, their faces are shown in profile. The outlines of the figures are drawn with double lines. The borders are always decorated



MADHUBANI

with ornamental floral patterns or geometrical designs.

• This ancient art has had a revival in recent times. The interest shown by city folks in the traditional arts of the villages and



the support provided by All India Handicrafts Board have been major factors that have been responsible for their revival. The women have now begun to make paintings on handmade paper which they continue to coat with a thin layer of diluted cow dung.

Nowadays, some artists have started using acrylic colours as well because of their easy availability. But these apart, the paintings preserve all the traditional features of this art form and can be found on sale

in markets all over the country. Another recent development is the fact that people are now interested in

This ancient art has had a revival in recent times...

learning to paint in this style and are enjoying the process as much as the product.

- Sujatha S.Iyer,
Std.VIII, Sri Sankara Senior
Sec. School,
Chennai



PAINTINGS!

We returned home at 10.30 p.m. after watching the Chennai open practice session on 30th December 2007. We were so tired that we fell asleep immediately. There is a departmental store called 'Vanga Vanga' in the adjacent compound of our apartment. It is located at the

My grandmother, brother and I were fast asleep at this time. About ten minutes later, I heard noises and jumped out of bed. I shook my brother awake. We ran to our parents' bedroom and looked out of the window. My father rushed out to help the fire brigade. He had the cars of the apartment removed,

'PONGA PONGA'

rear portion of a six ground plot with a bungalow in the front. At 3 a.m. my father heard a crackling sound. He quickly woke up and scanned the room for signs of a short-circuit. My mother woke up at the same time and my father asked her if she too had heard the crackling sound. When nothing was found within the bedroom, my mother opened the window to look outside. To her horror, she saw huge flames emanating from the rear end of the departmental store. The fire had spread to the mango and ashoka trees nearby. Sensing grave danger to our apartment and the neighbouring houses, my mother promptly dialed 101 to call the fire brigade, giving details of the location of the fire.

fearing that the fire would spread to them. The fire chief took stock of the situation, advising the electric-



ity board to switch off the mains.

The alert patrol policeman arrived on time, bringing the crowd under control. I could see the large, red fire engine, flashing its lights. The firemen had scaled the wall and got into the next compound. They were using a crowbar to bore holes through the tin sheets, which formed the side wall of the store.

To They were using fire hoses to put out the fire. Two men

were standing on the compound wall and guiding them. At last, the fire was put out successfully. A thick blanket of black smoke diffused into the air. The firemen had battled for two and a half hours to douse the flames. A word of praise for the firemen's bravery who acted promptly and courageously.

Next morning, when I looked out, the charred leaves of the mango and ashoka trees caused pain and

'VANGA VANGA!'



anguish in my heart. I went down to have a closer look. Although the store was gutted, daybreak brought new hope. I saw the owner selling fresh fruits and vegetables outside his shop, showing tremendous determination and a positive attitude to fight back life. What appeared like *'Ponga Ponga' the previous night when the fire raged was all **'Vanga Vanga' again!

I was reminded of the great Thomas Alva Edison when his factory was consumed in flames. To quote : "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burnt up. Thank god we can start anew."

- Kavya Bharat,
Std.VIII, Sishya, Chennai

- * go, go away!
- ** come, come and buy!



Baichung

India is ranked 156th among the world's foot-ball nations! Yet, the Indian foot-ball team captain Baichung Bhutia is an internationally renowned player. Even as Viswanathan Anand's



name has become synonymous with chess; Bhutia's has become synchronous with foot-ball.

Bhutia began playing for East Bengal when he was sixteen. His life changed ever since. In 1996, at the age

of 19, he came to be recognised as an outstanding foot-baller. He was the first Indian to play for an international foot-ball club - The English Professional League.

When the Olympic torch was brought to India recently, Bhutia refused to participate in the run. He was registering his protest against Chinese oppression of Tibet. "I denounce Chinese violence" said an emotional Bhutia, who is a Buddhist himself.

Bhutia hails from Sikkim and we all know that China has agressed a portion of Sikkim.

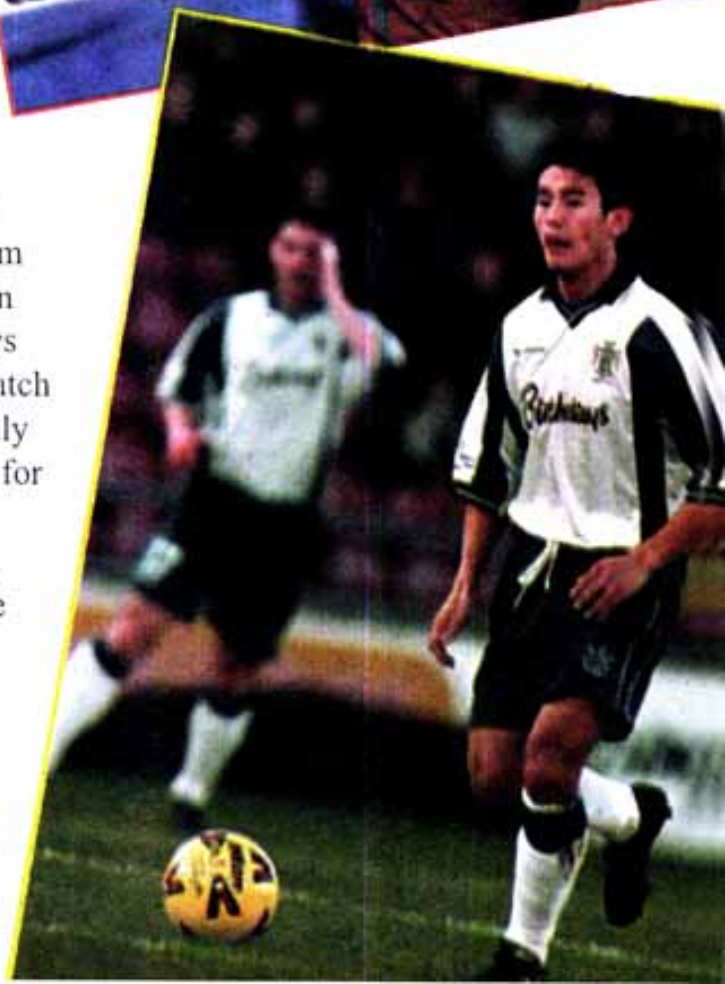
A Padmashri awardee of this

year, Bhutia has a stadium named after him, in Manipur. "I never dreamt I would play for India, when I first entered club foot-

Bhutia

ball. Representing the country is a great gift and captaincy a bonus" says a happy Bhutia.

He also adds, not very happily, "Football is a team sport. No single player can fetch results. I have always given my best to every match but victory can be ours only if the entire team strives for it. We have talent - yes, talent to match the best in the world. But we lack the skill to groom this talent to face the field. If only foot-ball had the kind of sponsorship support that cricket has in our country, the scenario would be very very different!"





It is the desire among many people to know about other countries and distant places. It is not possible to travel to these places and the best way to know about other countries and states is through penpals.

We tell our penpals about the

Kannada. In return, she teaches me Tamil.

Having a pen friend is really great! It is fantastic.

- Sheethal R.Holla,

Std.VII,

Jyothy Kendriya Vidyalaya,

Bengalooru



A PLEASANT HOBBY!

culture and heritage of our state or country. In turn, they too tell us about theirs.

Pen friendship is a pleasant and interesting hobby.

I have penpals too. They are Bhargavi from Chennai and Inchara from Mangalore.

I am a Bengalorean. Now I am learning more about Chennai and Mangalore. I teach Bhargavi



Drawing by :

V.Abirami, U.K.G.,
Sankara School,
Chennai

U. AKSHAY
Std. VI,
C.S.S. School,
Port Blair, Andaman



PARLE Ram and Shyam Save the World

RAM AND SHYAM ARE PLAYING IN THE GARDEN WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN SHYAM NOTICES SOMETHING.

LOOK RAM, ALL THE LEAVES ARE LOSING THEIR COLOR.

AS THEY LOOK AROUND THEY SEE ALL THE TREES LOSE THEIR COLOUR IN FRONT OF THEIR VERY EYES.

HUH, LOOK, EVEN THE GRASS.

AS THEY START TO RUN TOWARDS HOME, THEY HEAR CONVERSATION BEHIND A HUGE OAK TREE.

HA HA HA. WELL DONE TRUPEDIUS. NOW THAT ALL THE TREES ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR GREEN PIGMENT, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO PRODUCE OXYGEN.

AND ALL THE HUMANS WILL DIE WITHOUT OXYGEN. THEN WE CAN HAVE THIS PLANET TO OURSELVES.

RAM AND SHYAM SLOWLY PEEP TO SEE TWO EVIL-LOOKING ALIENS.

AND LORD DESTRUCTUS WILL GIVE US HUGE REWARDS. HA HA HA.

SEETA, MANISH, KARAN, RITESH!!

MANSI, PREETI, RAM, KETAN!!!

AS ALL THE FRIENDS GATHER, RAM AND SHYAM TAKE OUT THEIR POPPINS.

ALL OF YOU, QUICKLY HAND OVER YOUR GREEN POPPINS. RAM, GIVE ME THE POPPINS-BLASTER.

BOTH THE BOYS AIM THE GREEN POPPINS THROUGH THE POPPINS-BLASTER.

GOOD SHOW, RAM AND SHYAM, YOU SAVED THE EARTH!

POPPINS DID!

SUDDENLY THERE IS A BLAST